

Maclean's

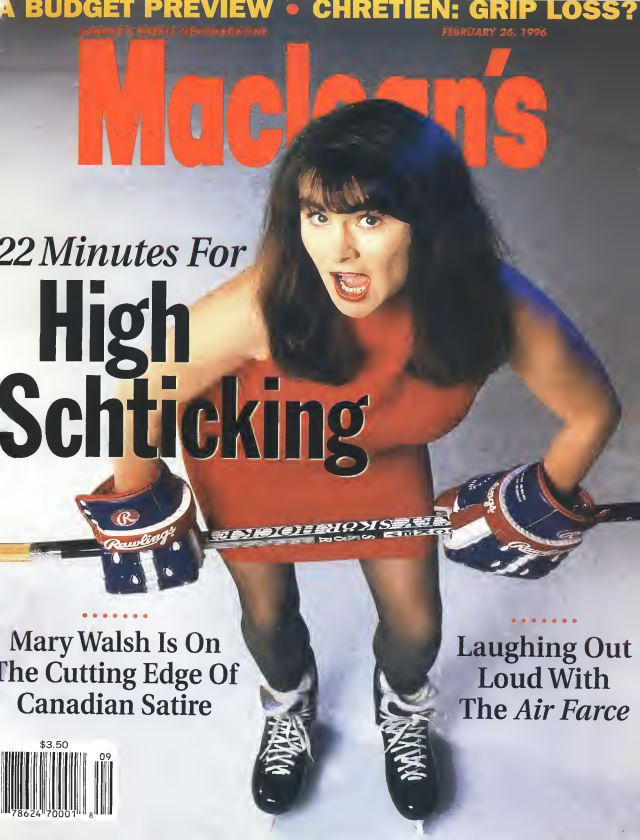
22 Minutes For

High Schticking

.....
Mary Walsh Is On
The Cutting Edge Of
Canadian Satire

.....
Laughing Out
Loud With
The Air Farce

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**INTRODUCING THE BIGGER,
LONGER, WIDER, LIGHTER, QUIETER, STIFFER,
STABLER, GUTSIER, SMARTER,
ROOMIER, POWERFULLER, COMFORTABLER,
GONNA-DRIVE-ACROSS-AFRICA-
IF-I-FEEL-LIKE-IT ALL-NEW PATHFINDER.**

RECENTLY we subjected the all-new 1998 Nissan Pathfinder to one of the toughest test drives imaginable: a 600-kilometer safari across southern Africa. Our test destination, the Okavango Delta, is the southern tip of the country. The route we chose, aptly named "Savannah Road," is a narrow, rutted dirt road that is little more than a track of tracks. Fortunately, it was made for a moment by the Pathfinder's sure, sure, rugged suspension. Often, we found ourselves driving in ruts that were as deep as the rutted road under a morning sun.



This made for slow going, and it was debatable whether the four-wheel drive or the air-conditioning (standard)

feature — think you, Nissan! — was the greater asset during these long stretches.

Another invaluable asset proved to be the new cargo area, 80% larger than before. Along with our camping gear, we were able to store our food and water in the back of the truck, a feature we found very useful. We also found that the new 100-watt power windows were a handy feature, too. We found that the new 100-watt power windows were a handy feature, too.



THE PATHFINDER MISSION

Congratulations! You're looking at the all-new 1998 Nissan Pathfinder, the latest sport utility we have ever made. From design to manufacturing, we've continuously built a vehicle that provides its owner with an exceptional level of comfort, ruggedness, safety and reliability. With proper care and maintenance, it's easy to picture your next adventure, wherever your next adventure takes you. For a great test drive, call 1-800-444-4444. Internet: www.nissanusa.com or visit us at www.nissanusa.com.



THE ALL-NEW
100% WIDER
PATHFINDER

FEATURES

1. All-new 3.5L engine and greatly enhanced torque and power
2. Multi-link rear suspension
3. Dual airbags
4. All-terrain wheel and tire package
5. Heavy-duty reinforced steel front suspension
6. 100-watt power windows
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20. 100-watt power windows

For their location, we joined the Okavango Delta.

The new Pathfinder also boasts dramatically increased horsepower and torque. This helped us out of some tight situations, particularly in Kenya. For this is a country teeming with wild animals that would rather more than to have you for dinner. While Nairobi, its capital city, is home to some of the most frightening traffic on earth.

Crossing Northern Kenya, home to some particularly aggressive animals, we were appreciative of Nissan's thoughtful inclusion of side-impact beams and dual airbags, and also the tight turning radius — fighter, we discovered, that that of the black rhino. This three-ton brute has a penchant for charging moving vehicles. Thankfully, no horns-to-metal contact was made.

Even the Pathfinder's stretch-resistant paint, avail-

able in six silver-protect colors, was put to the test as the last day of our trip when we encountered a family of baboons. They showed their appreciation at our intrusion by showing our vehicle with stones.

While many stories have gone untold here, it gives you a brief insight into what we, and our Nissan Pathfinder, encountered on safari. We can tell you quite confidently, there's nothing on earth that's hotter, stonier, meaner, scarier, sneakier, sneakier or tougher on a person — or a four-wheel drive vehicle, for that matter. We highly recommend a visit.

THE NEW PATHFINDER



Macleans's CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE This Week

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22 Minutes
for high
schticking

Canadians cannot seem to get enough of political action. The Royal Canadian Air Force's Double Exposure and This Hour Has 22 Minutes stand as a kind of unofficial opposition, with Mary Walsh as its zany leader.



COVER PHOTO BY DAN COLLE

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Grip loss?

The Prime Minister's scuffle with a demented doctor during Flag Day celebrations in Hull, Que., raised questions across Canada. At the top of the list, is the status of the national unity question. Having its toll on Jean Chretien?



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Sinking Deep Blue

In a face-to-face match, world chess champion Garry Kasparov contributed triumph over the supercomputer Deep Blue in Philadelphia.



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A budget preview

Finance Minister Paul Martin says that next month's federal budget is a matter of "staying the course" in his case, that means continuing the attack on the deficit.

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From The Editor

Time for a mood change



So your guy thinks our guy is an "idiot" and an "incompetent." Well, our guy can beat your guy in the back alley. So take that, you rotten, lousy partition-hating supermen! And if you don't like it, well, we can bring out General Boy's Brigade and meet you in Times Square, mate a mate.

Last week, snags of the backyard brawl took over the national unity debate. The separatists have noted the passion

and insults. And everyone who has ever blown a fuse under pressure recognizes Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's actions last week for what they were—naïve, unbecoming yet understandable. But the macho misapprehension of the country's future has to stop.

It is a time for moderation, not inflammatory rhetoric. It is a time to talk, not to yell at one another. The biggest problem in Canada now is a lack of mutual respect and understanding. Few people in English Canada have any contact with their fellow citizens in Quebec. Most francophones in Quebec, meanwhile, live their lives largely in isolation from the rest of the country.

The Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords were seldom flawed documents, cooked up by a back-room team. But that process did involve leaders of people who really knew the country, who had friends across the land, who believed in accommodation and conciliation, and who could see the other person's point of view. We have now lost that plan. The deficits of Meech Lake and Charlottetown have frustrated politicians. They are fearful of any appearance of a racist performance. They are almost literally afraid to be seen together in public.



Albert's Meech Lake—the merits of travel

And yet, without some kind of accommodation at the top, this country is going to die. And without grassroots support for such accommodation, we are going to lose Canada in a kind of silent motion, a permanent state in which all of us will be the losers.

A modest proposal: begin by getting people together, eastern and western; Quebecer and British Columbian; immigrant and pure laine. It is far easier to yell epithets at people 5,000 km away than it is when they are sitting across a kitchen table.

Let's start this process in the government and the private sector to launch a bold cross-Canada travel program. The federal heritage department has a \$550 million budget for its Canadian Identity Program. While he is pointing up his fringe budget, Finance Minister Paul Martin should earmark some of those funds to underwrite the cost of reducing transcontinental travel. Then he should ask each Canadian to ante up \$1 and get corporations to provide lowest accommodation and food. Presto!—there would be enough money to get 100,000 Canadians on the road this summer at prices they could afford.

None as it may sound, the scheme might just change the sour mood in the nation. The stunning geography would inspire people. They also would have a unique opportunity to see life in another part of Canada—to discover that they share history in the same landscapes, grow, practice and language the same. It may not be as dramatic as a fight in the back alley. But discovery could be a lot more rewarding than fistfights.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

A little help from the cover subject

When Senior Writer Brian D. Johnson embarked on this week's cover package on political sales, he found himself in a vaguely familiar setting: the daily production meetings of the CBC's *Saturday Night Live*. This about 22 Minutes Johnson says it "was something like attending the story meetings at *Maclean's*. You've got a bunch



Nichols (left), Roberts, Johnson, Turbine as adventuresome cover subject

of people sitting around a big table, figuring out how to cover the week's news. They fight for space, worry about factuality, and rush to do take-along items."

The cover package was prepared by Entertainment Editor Patricia Huddy, with the assistance of Associate Editor Diane Turbine and Researcher-Reporter Catherine Roberts. One crucial contributor was the main subject himself, 22 Minutes' Mike Walsh. In the search for an eye-catching cover photo, Johnson asked Walsh if she had any ideas. Her immediate response: "I see myself on the life of a formal dress." Not all our cover subjects have been that co-operative—or adventuresome.

Alzheimer's disease affects more than 1/4 million Canadians...



...not including the people who love them!

Moreover, Alzheimer's disease costs our healthcare system almost \$4 billion annually.

Pfizer has a new compound under investigation that will help control the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, may slow down the progression of the disease, and improve the quality of life for patients and their families. Additionally, this may help reduce the growing cost of institutionalization. Pfizer is a research-based global healthcare company. Our mission is to discover and develop innovative, cost-effective pharmaceuticals that promote longer, healthier, and more productive lives for all. To accomplish this, we invest almost \$2 billion annually in research and development.

We have more than 20 innovative chemical entities currently in clinical testing, covering a broad range of illnesses. In addition to Alzheimer's disease, we have promising new agents for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, depression, infectious diseases, pulmonary disorders, osteoporosis—and more.

As rising healthcare costs continue to be a problem, medications which reduce overall costs will be very much a part of the solution. And many of these will come from Pfizer. Because we're part of the cure.



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Photo copyright by the Alzheimer Society of Montreal.

We're part of the cure

The Mail

Regional discontent

As a person living in British Columbia, I feel very frustrated by even the suggestion that there are people in this province who want to be anything other than Canadian. ("British Columbia's Quiet Revolution," Cover, Feb. 12) I am sick of politicians and some members of the media

Ottawa, but Ottawa is three million miles from British Columbia. I believe the originator of the phrase was Gerry McGree, mayor of Vancouver, B.C., MP and senator in the 1980s and 1990s. The actual quote is "Ottawa is 3,000 miles from Vancouver, but Vancouver is 30,000 miles from Ottawa." That made the recent federal caucus in Vancouver a historic event. The members

numbered 40,000 miles.

Charles H. Campbell,
Vancouver

Blurred vision

His Alton Petersonism's anti-Toronto bias jugged his glasses ("The decline of Toronto the good," Column, Feb. 5). According to Forthampton, the Task Force on the Greater Toronto Area recommended the creation of a regional government that "would replace some 30 local governments." Quite the opposite. We recommended strengthening the role of municipalities to create a single streamlined Greater Toronto Council.

He later quotes me as announcing that "this vast urban area is the third-largest in Canada and the United States," a claim I never made. What our report does say is that the city is the sixth largest of 10 major metropolitan regions containing more than four million people. He errs yet again when he misstates that I called Toronto "the world's most multicultural area." Our report says that "Toronto is among the world's most multicultural urban regions."

Anna Grillo,
Chairwoman, Task Force on the
Greater Toronto Area,
Toronto

Yet another round of Toronto bashing by Fort. Get real, David! It's still the cleanest large city on the planet. I ought to know, having travelled extensively all over Mother Earth in the cockpit of a C-330. Leave Toronto to the Treenies, eh?

R.J. Conway,
Windsor, ON

Firing customers

Fred Birnbaum's "Working at the office as borrowed time" (Sun, February 10), Feb. 10, says that the mail agency is the lynchpin in the Internet bubble for ever more profits, made possible by modern



Josh Peterson: a pretty good idea of what Quebec wants and what Canada needs

A unifying example

It gratifies the hearts of doing good-parents to see their boy featured in a picture with other unity supporters at the demonstration in Montreal on October 1, 1998, on your From the Editor page ("Power to the people," Feb. 5). The young man with the white shirt is Josh Peterson, and it is appropriate he should have been singled out, given his heritage. Through his father he is a melting of Canada's founding nations. We are proud of our Captain Canada. He has a pretty good idea of what Quebec wants and what Canada needs.

Dr. G. A. Peterson,
Edmonton, AB

technology, industrial management is indeed firing their best customers. Corporate America takes heed.

Philip Lindstrom,
Windsor, Ont.

When will the government get wise and make it too expensive for companies to lay off their employees? Make them pay the personal and social costs of such an earth-shaking disruption in the form of a tax increase. These give us credit to those companies that hire new people.

Alex C. Phelan,
Allentown, PA

'Practical value?'

I am a very elderly middle-aged Canadian for whom the Internet has come at exactly the right time ("Plugging into the future," Cover, Jan. 26). When my brain started to rust, we moved to the country, as far away from the city libraries and services as which I feel always relied. My family connected me to the Internet as a Christmas gift. In the past month, I have received a winter holiday, sent flowers to my sons and birthday cards and made some new friends. Practical value? Yes!

Mary-Grover,
Lansing, Ont. (N)

I am amazed by Maclean's fascination with the Internet. I wonder if Mr. Kelly's prediction would have its current popularity if it cost at least \$2,500 to buy a phone, then hundreds



Vancouver skyline, using discontent to pick at the wounds of the national unity struggle

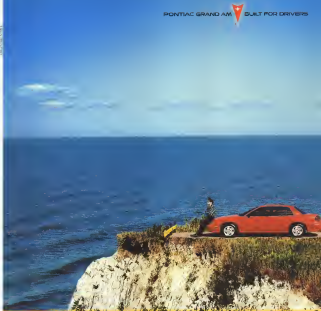
who are using regional discontent to pick away at the wounds we have suffered as we struggle with our national identity. I love Canada. It is a wonderful land filled with incredibly special people. After my family, I consider my Canadian citizenship to be the most valuable thing in my life. And for the record, I could not care less how far I am living from Ottawa.

Steve Ford,
Midvale, BC

After reading the comments of Jesse Kwan that "British Columbia is the caring province of Canada" ("A diverse culture," 5, I think that we, one the easterners we have complained about for so long as a people, it seems that some British Columbians are equally capable of great arrogance. In trying to promote a view of this province as the rose-colored glasses of her own political perspective, Kwan ignores the achievements of other Canadian provinces in social means.

Steve Vanderhof,
Vancouver, BC

Your cover story begins with former B.C. premier David Pattullo's alleged quote "British Columbia may be 3,000 miles from



The world is a dazzling grey mosaic of roads and highways, occasionally interrupted by annoyingly vast expanses of water.

On the other hand, getting around these rather inconveniently placed items of nature means you can spend twice as much time driving the Grand Am. Which means twice as much time with its V6 engine, enhanced traction control and standard 4-wheel ABS. Annoying? Who said annoying? For details, call 1-800-GM-DRIVE.

DeerSave

Help Save Our Deer!

The call is out to all conservation-minded groups and individuals to help Ontario's winter-ravaged deer population.

Heavy snow and unusually cold weather are hitting deer hard, and starvation is a grim reality for this precious natural resource.

But through *DeerSave*, a program of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to assist the Ministry of Natural Resources, emergency efforts involving hundreds of Ontario groups and individuals can work to make a life-giving difference.

Your donation will help in efforts to break trails for deer trapped by heavy snow. Those trails allow deer to access their natural winter food supply of tender tree bark, twigs and buds. If the unusually severe weather persists, specially formulated deer food can be dropped along the trails.

Donations received directly at the O.F.A.H. Conservation Centre can be accepted. Unaccepted cash donations can be made at any Ontario branch of the Bank of Montreal. All donations are important and urgently needed.



For more information on how you can help Ontario's 300,000 deer, call your local branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources, or contact the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Box 2890, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5, or call 705-746-6124.



THE MAIL

more to make it work. I think the Internet will be just a high-tech way for the rich or even moderately rich until it becomes as affordable and ubiquitous as the telephone.

Gordon Fries
August 88

Encouraging unity

Congratulations on an accurate story, "Lighting back" (Cover, Feb. 5), about our Prime Minister. I worked for Jean Chrétien for two years in the 1970s and met with him every day. As you quoted me, please, be it a mean character when crossed, but at the same time, devil honest and very hardworking. I wish, however, that he would provide more leadership in these times of mismanagement. As one who has lived in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, I see Canadians everywhere with little personal knowledge of their country—people who have never met a Quebecer, people from Quebec who have never left their home town. We need to encourage the largesse that comes with this knowledge.

Petera Zepkowski
Toronto, ON

Until the appearance of your informative and balanced articles on the left and the Prime Minister, none of the focus of political pundits and writers has been to criticize the federalist position. Such attacks against the side that we want to win are counterproductive. It is hoped the critics will now use the power of their pens to challenge the real opposition—the separatists—and to remind Quebecers about the advantages of unity and the fallacy of separatist arguments.

Arthur S. Novak
Nantes, Ont.

Maclean's editorial notes state that letters may be edited to space and clarity. Please send name, address and telephone number. Write letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, 122 Bay St. Toronto, Ont. M5H 2M1. Tel. (416) 967-1300. E-mail: info@maclean.ca or 1-800-387-5266/magazine.com

Maclean's

ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Editor: Robert Lewis

President: Robert Lewis

Vice President: Robert Lewis

Managing Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

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Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

Assistant Editor: Robert Lewis

The road ahead

This contribution from John Cripps of the faculty of management at the University of Toronto examines *The Road Ahead*, a private feature allowing readers to advance specific solutions to Canada's political, social and economic problems. Unpublished submissions will not be returned, but may now be considered as regular letters or appear on an electronic bulletin board.

Between a ROC and a hard place

As the prospects increase of the country I live so much thinking up, I know I am caught between a rock and a hard place. The rock is spelled ROC—that is, the rest of Canada—while the hard place is not Quebec itself but its frighteningly inbred separatist leadership.

Before the unthinkable can happen, English Canada must take three steps. Most Canadians outside Quebec acknowledge that Quebec is different, if not distinct, from all the other provinces, but they do not want that uniqueness spelled out in the Constitution. If the ROC cannot bring itself to accept the obvious—that Quebec is a distinct society—and to recognize that special status, at least in the position to the Constitution, then it can not expect Quebec to remain in Confederation. In its history and practice, Quebec is a distinct society, if only in the homeland of one of our three founding peoples. Added to this is Quebec's own civil code and its French-Canadian culture and language, all of which differentiate it, significantly, from the other provinces.

Quebec's separatists are not right on all constitutional changes proposed. At a minimum, I would agree to a Quebec veto on those matters that are central to the characteristics that make Quebec unique. Finally, as is the case with many other provinces, Quebec is demanding a transfer of powers from the federal to the provincial level of government. My position on this is-

sure is quite pragmatic. While a case can be made on efficiency grounds for transferring some existing federal powers and responsibilities—those that seem to be the leading example cited these days—just the reverse can be argued in a few areas, such as securities regulation.

Even if we do surrender the Constitution, it would not end the hard-core separatists. Nothing short of separation ever will. Yet I am convinced it would be enough to provide Quebec federalists with more than a fighting chance to win either an election or a referendum on separation, perhaps even decisively.

What we are potentially embarking upon is a mutual suicide pact. To avoid this disaster, the ROC should, on the one hand, slide its position on everything from relatively easily resolved issues if we break up—like currency and passports—to far more serious problems such as Quebec's share of the debt, its appropriate borders and its trading rights. The ROC should also be asking itself how likely it is to survive on its own as a divided country in which one province, Ontario, has almost as many voters as the rest of the country combined.

In the process, two sobering things might happen. Quebecers might begin to realize the ultimate costs of separation and the ROC might come to appreciate how unrealistic it could become without Quebec. Only if we face up to these twin soberers are we likely to avoid what is no longer the unthinkable.

John Cripps
Toronto

Editorial Assistant: Robert Lewis

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Don't miss Sunday Morning Live in W 90am ET and Ontario. Starts Out in 10:30am ET on CBC Newsworld

COLUMN



Muzzling the minority voice in Quebec

BY DIANE FRANCIS

This is the story of Quebec's ruthless political and media elites, which have conspired to destroy the Equality party, a voice representing many of the province's anglophones and allophones. Dubbed "chasseurs" by the racist front premier Jacques Parizeau, these minorities have had their linguistic and ethnic rights badly bruised by their own provincial government. And the only consistent advocate for their rights, the Equality party, has been systematically muzzled.

As a member of the media, I defend their right to choose what, and where, they report upon. But I cannot defend what amounts of de facto censorship. I realize the Equality party and some of its officials are not necessarily everyone's cup of tea. But the point of this story is to reveal that the tactics used against the party are unacceptable in a democracy.

Now members in Quebec's national assembly, that party won four ridings in 1986 in its first election campaign. The party captured more than half of the anglophone vote where it ran candidates. While few in number, compared with the legislature's 132-seat total, Equality was still able to put forward its platform of language fairness and rule of law.

Then, a series of embarrassments struck its leader Robert Latham: eventually left and then an unsuccessful campaign in an ink-blot scandal in the 1994 provincial election. Another member jumped ship to the Parti Quebecois. The party began to decay, but this was due to large measure, to Equality's slow strangulation by the media and the party's political rivals, a process that continues today.

The party was virtually muzzled when CFCF-TV's news director issued a news ban in May, 1993 to stop covering us. Equality's current leader, Keith Henderson, told me in a recent interview: "The news director wrote that Equality was a fringe player and was getting too much coverage. But a similar black-out followed." The available record was that

The Equality party, the only consistent advocate of English-language rights, has been shut up by the media and the other political parties

Equality dropped catastrophically to one per cent from six per cent at the opinion polls.

Linked the memo by a CFCF reporter upset about censorship. Henderson wrote back to the news director: "As head of Pulse News, the Montreal English community's chief source of news, you may feel that too much attention has been devoted to the public and activities of the Equality party. We received 4,000 per cent of the popular vote in 1986, some 150,000 votes—a strong majority of English-speakers. The slogan-carrier figure in recent polls suggests we may do even better next time around."

With little support even in media circles that had earlier been sympathetic, Equality was dead another. Now in 1994's provincial election when a consortium of Quebec television networks denied Equality the chance to participate in the leadership debate. Daily Liberal Lester Dussel Johnson and Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau would be invited, and the debate was to be in French only.

This flew in the face of Quebec's Election Act, which required broadcasters to give free, fair air time to leaders from "parties represented in the national assembly or

which obtained at least three per cent at the valid votes at the last general election." Equality qualified on both counts.

Henderson wrote to the television consortium and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, reminding the CRTC of its policy circular No. 304, which says "The broadcaster does not enjoy the position of a broadcast master who is able to give the public only what it 'should' know. Nor is it the broadcaster's role to decide in advance which candidates are 'worthy' of broadcast time." The guideline urges broadcasters to provide, among other things, "equitable" political coverage.

As Henderson pointed out, if the same restrictions had been applied during the 1980 federal election, Canadians would have been unable to hear Preston Manning and Lucien Bouchard debate. Even worse, pointed Henderson, these debates would have had to be held in English only. The commission and consortium held firm, citing a subsequent court decision in Ontario that overruled the policy circular and allowed TV networks the latitude to choose who could participate in televised debates.

By far the most egregious blow to the Equality party came when it was unfairly fringe out of the subsequent referendum debate by the Liberals. Under the Quebec referendum rules, yes and no committees were established and given the power to veto all advertising permitted in the vote. They were all to given \$1 per voter, or about \$5 million, to spend on the campaign.

"We made application to be an affiliated group to Daniel Johnson's No committee [including Tony Leader Jean Charest] and had to go to court to be recognized as having the right to advance ideas that the Quebec Liberals would not advance," explained Brent Tyler, a Montreal lawyer and former Equality party candidate. "For example, we wanted to point out you cannot have a 50 per cent decision vote; that undermines a constitution of declaration of independence which will be 25 per cent of the Canadian population is called upon to vote."

"We wanted to tell voters that Guy Bertrand had won a court case that ended the referendum idea in secret deal. They refused to allow us to speak our piece and when I was commissioned and legal arguments. We lost three weeks of a four-week campaign fighting it out in court. We won, that they allowed an \$2,500 to run some kind of campaign. By that time and with that amount, it was too late."

Three parties unconsciously agreed that the No committee was wrong.

The committee denied Equality supporters their constitutional rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association. So did Henderson during the election leadership debate in 1994, and the CRTC. A healthy democracy should spare the way for the dissemination of many opinions and freedoms. What's happened to the Equality party raises questions about Quebec's commitment to an open society.

DID HE LOSE IT?

The Prime Minister's behavior raised the question



Bouchard: 'A perfect idiot'

Bozward: 'A perfect school'

BY E. KAYE FULTON and MARY JANDIGAN

By the standards he set during his street-brawl youth in Sweetwater, it was not much of a riot. But in the space of less than two hours, the town of 1,000 people was thrown into chaos. The riot took its toll: two people were killed and 100 injured. The riot was the first of many that would follow in the years to come. The riot was the first of many that would follow in the years to come. The riot was the first of many that would follow in the years to come.

Despite the jabs, Christie's decidedly unapologetic, unapologetic behavior in anything but a laughing matter for the Liberal government. The Flap Day ceremony, which Christie only decided to attend in midweek, was intended to evoke Canadians' pride in their country and their Maple Leaf symbol. Christie was to be Captain Canada, briefly reliving the federalist forces against the separatist threat, instead, the public got photographs and slow-motion videos of Christie, his campaign slogan, his face colorized in an angry orange. Christie, the Liberals' plan to reach their coalition.

the tumors of Canadian unity was in tatters. Worse, in many observers, it appeared as if the stress of the unity campaign was simply too much for Chrétien to bear. Sault Conservative Leader Jean Cloutier, "If there is any benefit to this episode, it is that everyone should give themselves a solid shake and remember that we have a responsibility that is more important than killing all aliens."

The student began as a photo opportunity in a routine day. Clinton handed out awards for excellence to students in the Presidential Hill office. Then he popped into my classroom for a short report about the bridge across the Ottawa River to Jacques Cartier park. As the Prime Minister launched into his speech, a small crowd of protesters, brandishing letters-opposed to the bill, began to chant "No bridge, no bridge" for many minutes. I apologized to the Prime Minister. In vain. As he continued, drawing out his last words, *Christie* came up. But instead of going directly to his car, he broke away from his security guards, marching through the crowd, shaking hands and extending greetings. He finally grabbed a small boy out of the way. Nine seconds later, he grabbed Clinton's face just as the protesters' speech hit its climax to repeat his name, "*Clinton*," as a message "I'm here, you're not," interrupted by a chant, "No bridge, no bridge." I did not imagine when their words I'd witness them but to the crowd and held him down.

Cleaver's surprising cubs threw the Prime Minister's conduct into an even starker light. A social activist who supported the Ysido during the referendum, Cleaver is almost a professional protestor, so adept at hammering home his message that he broke through security in 2002 to confront former justice minister Brian Mulroney over cuts to social housing funding. In his world, the rules of the game are well-known. So when the Prime Minister

asked Solicitor General Herb Gray to report on the the RCMP's performance, Clement expressed shock. "It's incredible that people are querying that question," he told Macdon's "before the person who was the victim was not the Prime Minister but the person who was assassinated by the Prime Minister." Last week-end, he had not yet decided whether to press charges.

Cheney may yet be laughing—but Quabblers are likely to be harder to appease. In the wake of the incident, media and television shows were flooded with calls condemning the Prime Minister's actions. The critics were especially outraged that Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, who accompanied Clinton, blamed the incident as "supremacists disguised as unemployed people." One caller complained: "The deputy prime minister's presence in the west of Canada and the world is that you can

TV images of the scuffle in Mall: Flag Day turned sour

rough up separatists: throw them on the ground, twist their necks because they are dangerous and violent people."

The reaction of Canadians elsewhere was understandably mixed. Alberta Premier Ralph Klein said that he understood Christian's intention. "A couple of years ago, someone came up behind me and shot me with a water pistol," he recalled. "My immediate inclination was to go after the culprit, and I was rewarded very firmly for that's not my job." Others tacitly applauded Christian's deed. The *Denver Star* christened him "Hal Hogen" while its sister paper, the *Toronto Star*, trumpeted, "Now Brian Can Breathe!"

The incident could not have come at a worse time for the federal forces. On March 29, two cabinet ministers, (prosecutors) and Attorney Minister Solphange Dube and International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew, faced bycrotehism in Quebec to witness in the House of Commons. Their prospects now appear dimmer than a week ago. In his defence, Christian supporters argue that the RCMP's actions were justified. They say that the fact that a police officer was killed by a gunman broke into his official residence. They also argue that Christian would never have come close to the protesters if his security guards had been doing their job. Corps for me, said that the RCMP "should have been in front, as well as around" the Prime Minister's residence. While some Canadians approved of Christian's actions, many were left with a bad taste in their mouths. Christian's actions were seen as a warning. Prime Minister's concerned it's case, Christian's actions were seen as a warning. Prime Minister's concerned it's case, Christian's actions were seen as a warning. Prime Minister's concerned it's case, Christian's actions were seen as a warning.

FIGHTING WORDS

The national unity debate reaches a new low

With words like "crony," "inefficient" and "opportunity" being thrown about, the national identity debate last week began to sound less like political discourse and more like a vituperative spat within a dysfunctional family. At issue was the possibility of Quebec in the event of a future free vote to sovereignty. More specifically, the all-out exchanges involved analyzing the future status of the province's largely-wild and whether a sovereign Quebec might use force to keep those areas within its territory. The rapidly snowballing debate revealed fayed nerves in Quebec, questionable tactics by Ottawa, and a sense that national reconciliation was, for the moment, only a dream. "Over the past two weeks, the country has misbehaved itself as an uneducated teenager," said Jean Charest.

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Ron Ivens is the tone of Feb. 9 Quebec City. Asked by reporters whether attempts to keep alive the peace and federalist ties within a sovereign Quebec could result in bloodshed, Ivens answered in the affirmative: "There are a lot of crazy people around the country," he said. "When you appeal to the dark side of people, as the separatists do, then you get a reaction." He added that "the Government of Canada has no intention" "has to explain to those people who vote Yes that they are giving him the right to use force on aboriginal peoples." Responding to Ivens—and to similar remarks by intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stéphane Durocher—was newsworthy. "I wish that his Chinese would sue [him] to shut his mouth," he declared. "I wish that Mr. Greer would sue him. And I wish that the courts would sue him. I wish that the courts would never sit down to judge this democracy, nation of Quebec and Canada."

But Irwin persisted. Last week, he declared that, in his view, Quebec territory does not belong to Quebec. In fact, during an impromptu moment broadcast beamed down at "Imbibe, a party for Irwin," Quebec's intergovernmental affairs minister, Jacques Desautel, went a step further, saying that Irwin was either a "prophet" who wants to set dangerous fires all over the place or an ignorant blundering neophyte. Still, Desautel issued a list of his own with what amounted to a veiled threat that a sovereign Quebec might indeed be prepared to use force. "A useful signal that a certain number of events to assert its authority," the minister issued a response to questions about how Quebec might enforce its authority on its neighbors. "Obviously there are also police forces."

Providing such motives from Quebec's repressed leaders is precisely the federal government's strategy. In fact, Quebec deputy premier Bernard Landry's critics of Ottawa last week—"the whistles are blowing in all directions"—indirectly warned up the Liberals' plan to keep the Parti Québécois off balance. Military situations



abandoned—one senior cabinet official described him as “a loose cannon who hasn’t completely rolled off the dead-end yet.” But Ottawa is also aware that the better favor of the debate could be decided with the public—both inside and outside Quebec. “I think both leaders, Mr. Bourcheid and Chirbelle on his side, must tell everyone that we must stay calm,” declared federal Citizenship Minister Lucienne Robitaille. Whether her words will be heeded is another matter.

drawn 'You are going to get violence'

PIETER SCHWILLEM
with E. KAYE FULFORD in Ottawa

Previewing the budget

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin vows that he will stay the course

BY E. KAYE FULTON
and MARY JANIGAN

The 16 provincial finance ministers were meeting their usual bitter complaints about Ottawa's lavish spending habits when Finance Minister Paul Martin ordered to leave others with their for an evening. On Feb. 8, over chicken dinner at the 22nd-floor boardroom of his department offices, Martin first presented an overview of federal expenditures. Then, he cut back abruptly as his provincial counterparts sat him where to sit. He pointed out that there were 5,000 federal health experts even though the provinces administer health-care programs. They acedly noted that regional development and federal industry funds are often side-by-side on the same street, in the same town. "They say we're in Ottawa is considering new buildings where there is a glut of office space after. Martin countered that cutting off funds in each of those areas would mean less money and fewer jobs in those regions; there was no problem with it. "The provinces were saying 'Cut it somewhere else,' he's backyard," Martin told Martin's. "But the federal government's backyard is their backyard. That's the way Canada is there is only one taxpayer."

Such practical exchanges have bolstered Martin's resolve to continue the cleanup of federal finances—whatever the political price. Despite provincial pleadings, despite the quality of state of his own free-spending caucus colleagues, Martin will keep cutting to meet the target that he announced last fall: the deficit must decline to two per cent of the gross domestic product in 1997-1998. Maclean's has learned that the finance minister's third budget, expected in early March, will show as much as \$2 billion from federal program spending in 1996-1997. It will likely become the upper limit on retrogressive cuts at the government level of \$25,500. It will increase the recourse applicant for low-income working families. The budget will also announce further cuts in cash transfers to the provinces for social programs. These cuts will not take effect until 1998-1999—but they are certain to provide a boost to the provinces. And the budget will reduplicate spending to introduce a million-hour dollar fund to develop high tech products and create jobs. An industry Minister John Manley told Maclean's: "We need to satisfy someone, Canadians that we're going to do it. The technological changes that are affecting us."

Martin's budget will be equally interesting for what it will not do. Although it will filter with corporate and personal exemptions, it will not raise tax rates, even on such traditional targets as cigarettes. It will not implement Liberal plans to tax back a greater proportion of federal old age pensions from wealthier Canadians. The cabinet remains bitterly divided about whether Ottawa should even mention that continuous income before the next election—even though old

If the deficit does drop to \$17 billion, and if growth continues as expected, Martin will have achieved a critical breakthrough: the debt will finally begin to decline as a proportion of the GNP.

In a series of interviews with senior government officials, Martin's last period together a summary of what the budget will, and will not do.

- There will be no new spending. In fact, with spending cuts of as much as \$2 billion, new programs such as the technology fund will be paid for with money redirected from the cancellation of old programs. In particular, despite the continuing threat of Quebec separation, and the plans of some Montreal politicians, there will be no massive programs to rebuild the dilapidated infrastructure of the city of Montreal. Still a scarier situation exists. "There is no way that we are going to be spending in Quebec, where [Quebec Premier Lucien] Bouchard is out of Quebec. Montreal is his problem."

- The CRTC will remain without the stable, long-term funding that the Liberals promised in 1983. A proposed 15 per cent pay cut to the CRTC's satellite, cable and long-distance telephone services to fund cultural agencies, especially the CRTC, sparked such a flurry of complaints to MPs that the idea barely even made it to Martin's door. It will not be implemented.

- The budget will probably increase the working income supplement, which now provides up to \$800 a year to low-income

The minister says
the deficit must decline
to two per cent of GDP
in two years

age persons constitute the largest single element of Ottawa's program spending. The budget also will not tackle reform of the department Goods and Services Tax—a key Liberal campaign promise in 1985. In fact, Martin says the budget is not likely to surprise or shock Canadians. Asked what headlines he expected, Martin said: "We stayed the course, showed the light at the end of the tunnel and clearly indicated the government's priorities—jobs and the preservation of our social programs."

For financial markets, and for Martin himself, Ottawa will truly mark the end of the tunnel when the national debt stops growing faster than the economy. Ten years ago, the debt was half of the size of the economy. Today, it is \$579 billion—almost 74 per cent of the country's GNP, the value of all goods and services produced in a year. The debt is so high that it is crippling the government's capacity to act as a lender of last resort: a step going 36 cents of every tax dollar. The key is to get the annual deficit under control to curb the growth of the debt—and to foster economic growth so that the size of the debt shrinks in comparison.

This year's budget will outline how Martin intends to meet his target of \$17 billion in 1997-1998 and \$17 billion in 1997-1998

'WE ARE WINNING THAT BATTLE'

Maclean's Ottawa Correspondent E. Kaye Fulton and Co-ordinating Editor Mary Janigan interview Finance Minister Paul Martin last week. Excerpt

Maclean's: Is this a stay-the-course budget?

Martin: Stay-the-course is one way of putting it. I don't change the structure of government spending in every budget. No change in course, and you will notice that change. Budgets shouldn't be putting members. Budgets ought to be the government's economic statement. This idea that a budget is judged by the amount of blood on the floor is simply an endless way of looking at the economy to fail, a successful budget should not have blood on the floor. We really do think that the preservation of social programs and getting people back to work is a priority.



Martin: "My view is that you shouldn't put off the problem."

Maclean's: How do you deal with the group in your caucus that has tired of spending reduction?

Martin: I don't think anyone thinks, "The party is about to begin." We have solved all our problems. Every single person who stands up at the mike in caucus starts off with, "You have got to stay the course on the new programs, because they do. And it begins to sound like that the world has come to an absolute halt, there are no new problems. What we have been saying is that if you are going to spend money on new programs, reallocate it from other spending. Don't take it from the fireplace."

Maclean's: Will there not be a temptation to overspend in an election year?

Martin: Governments spending great sums of money before an election has gone the way of the dodo bird. Political popularity by giving shrews? That has absolutely gone. You will be punished pretty heavily in an election if you do something so cynical.

Maclean's: So far, it appears impossible to harmonize the Goods and Services tax with the provinces. So how are you going to keep your promise to change it?

Martin: If somebody can tell me a better alternative to harmonization, I am all ears. I have been through the alternatives here and there again. You cannot believe the amount of night hours that we have spent on it.

Maclean's: What is the primary role of this budget?

Martin: The basic role of government is to consistently keep anticipating where we have got to go. Our first two budgets dealt with fixing up the problems of the past. What I would really like to begin doing in this budget is anticipating the opportunities and fixing up the problems that lie ahead.

Maclean's: Do you see your budget as an instrument of national unity?

Martin: Yes. A federal government in good financial health is an integral part of the national unity debate. The financial backing comes when a country isn't meeting its challenges. It spends all of its time playing at it. In the end, this is a battle between competing visions in which society, an independent Quebec or as a part of Canada, can it as a Quebecer fulfil my dreams and my children's dreams? So far, we are winning that battle. We have dealt with our financial problems. Quebec has not even begun to approach its financial problems.

households to encourage workers to stay in the labor force. The goal is to provide more funds to families in order to tackle Canada's most pressing social problem, child poverty.

A group of Liberal MPs pressed Martin to lower the tax-free limit for registered retirement savings plan contributions from \$13,500 in 1996 to \$7,500. Those MPs argued that only wealthy taxpayers benefit from the current limit. But the finance minister is unwilling to lower the ceiling because it would provide a desperately needed pool of domestic savings that Ottawa itself draws upon when it borrows money. Martin is likely, however, to freeze the ceiling at its current level, cancelling scheduled \$5,000-a-year increases, which were due to begin in 1996.

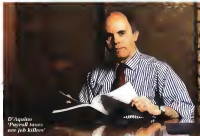
Martin has a more concerned lobby by employers and employees for lower payroll insurance premiums. Although the fund is expected to generate a \$5-billion surplus by the end of 1996, Martin argues that he wants even more money in the fund fully to ensure plenty of cash in case of an economic downturn. That decision is certain to be controversial. But Thomas D'Aquila, president of the Business Council on National Issues, says that further reductions in premiums are vital to encourage job creation. "These are payroll taxes—payroll taxes are taxes on jobs," said D'Aquila. "The old way has cost over and over that payroll taxes are job killers. If the surplus rises to \$6-billion, that goes well beyond the real need of the fund."

Last October, as the Quebec referendum battle raged, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien personally walked Martin's ailments to end the spending cut of programs for the elderly with an emphatic note: "I can guarantee you that you will get all the same benefits on Tuesday the day after the vote if it is a No." The cost of those programs, \$65 billion in 1995-1996, is slated to rise 30 per cent over the next 10 years. By then, that date, Ottawa prepared a lot of problems in the old age security system, which included paying

benefits on the basis of family income instead of individual income so that a recipient would receive less money if the household income is high, and a further draw back of benefits from wealthier recipients. Chartrand's comment made it impossible to implement any of those changes in the coming budget. Some advisers argue that it is now politically impossible to even discuss reforms before the next election. Yet, Martin told *Abeleson's* that he would still like to implement reforms this year—even if he does not introduce them in the budget. "Basically my view is that you shouldn't put off the problem," he said.

• *Not a political solution:* In the February 2005 budget, the federal government will roll the money that it gives to the provinces for health, postsecondary education and welfare into a single, block fund, the Canada Health and Social Transfer. The old funding formula, which will be extended until April 1, 2007, has been a source of considerable tension between the provinces because it provides less money per capita to wealthier provinces, such as Ontario and British Columbia, while rewarding poorer provinces, including Quebec. *Abeleson's* has learned that Ottawa plans to gradually reduce the differences in payments to the provinces starting in April 2007, but the government has decided that it will not cut these differences entirely, largely because that would provoke howls of outrage from Quebec. As well, although all provinces were hoping that Ottawa would promise to freeze cash transfers at the 1995-1996 level of \$22.5 billion, the budget will announce that there will be a further reduction in 1996-1997—it means that it is certain to provoke provincial fury.

• *The budget will introduce a technology fund, which will provide loans to high-tech firms that are on the brink of developing new products.* Industry Minister Mauder told *Abeleson's* that Ottawa is no longer in the business of subsidizing business. In fact, it is going to put money into high-risk ventures, such as biotechnology products, the federal government wants a guaranteed share of those products' profits. Said Mauder:



D'Aquila: "Personal taxes are job killers"

"I would encourage entrepreneurs, risk-takers and others sharing some of the benefits."

• *Martin also expressed concern about the so-called jobless recovery, noting that it is difficult for workers to make the transition to the new highly skilled jobs. "You could" waste some of the firm and get a job on the assembly line," he said. "But you can't go off the*

job. It's tough to step from direct government at expensive courses in training schools. In its nature, Ottawa wants business, not government, to decide what skills are needed and to train new employees with the help of tax breaks.

• *The Conservative Shadow cabinet argued last month that Ottawa add \$1 to the price of each cart of cigarettes as soon as possible, providing it can do so without encouraging cross-border smuggling. That six tax would have added \$125 million annually to Ottawa's coffers. Martin would have jumped at the chance. But according to a leaked-protocol agreement, Ontario and Quebec must get the first crack at that lucrative tax base. Because Ontario Premier Michael Harris adamantly refuses to raise taxes, Ottawa is out of luck.*

The 1996 budget is the third and final piece of a difficult three-year chess game with the nation's provinces. Next year after all, it is likely to bring a general election. And, although spending will not increase in 1997-1998, it is equally unlikely that there will be major additional cuts in a pre-election period. Instead, Martin has preprogrammed future spending cuts so that they will occur almost automatically through to 1998-1999. Former senior bureaucrat Arthur Kroeger, a longtime Ottawa policy adviser, points out that Martin changed the very structure of government spending patterns in his 1995 budget when he made major, multi-year cuts and introduced the new block fund for social programs. "The big breakthrough was the budget of 2005," observed Kroeger. "That was a huge turnaround for the federal government. It was a major, major change, and they are going to keep going because our debt is so high that we cannot backslide." For Martin, it is no less than a personal crusade. "Just take a look at the way our interest charges are rising," he said. "It is just staggering. It drives me absolutely crazy that for two decades we didn't do anything about it." If the treasurer does slice the side of debt, he will deserve his place of honor. □



Source: Statistics Canada

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Bittersweet victory

The Nisga'a land claim deal faces stiff opposition



Drummers celebrate the agreement. 'This document will go down in history.'

The tears, laughter and hugs were a fitting end to the month's brawling effort. Last week, after months of events that have left the Nisga'a people torn a dramatic split between those who support their own desire to establish a sovereign state and those who support the idea that they should accept a land claim deal. The Nisga'a people, who live in a small town on the coast of British Columbia, have been fighting for their own desire to establish a sovereign state. The Nisga'a people, who live in a small town on the coast of British Columbia, have been fighting for their own desire to establish a sovereign state.

The case, however, is headed for some rough waters. B.C. Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell, whose party has consistently led in the polls, and he would consider renegotiating parts of the treaty should the Liberals form the government in the provincial election that will be called later this year. B.C. Liberal party leader Jack McEwen is equally skeptical, saying that the claim deal should be put to a province-wide referendum. Much of the criticism last week centred on provisions giving the Nisga'a a guaranteed annual share of the B.C. commercial fishery—a move bitterly opposed by fishery groups representing extensive fisheries. Campbell claims the mariculture. "We do not believe you should have a mostly closed commercial fishery," says Campbell. "You can't solve one set of problems by creating another."

For all that, the tentative Nisga'a pact—the first such settlement in the province this century—is being hailed as a major victory as a landmark for future land claims agreements in British Columbia, where another 42 native groups are registered in negotiations. The agreement, reached with both the provincial and federal governments, promises a powerful new level of self-government, including giving the 6,000 Nisga'a the right to set up their own court for minor offences and their own police force—but all under the aegis of the Criminal Code of Canada and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Their territory will no longer be reserve land and eventually they will come to be subject to the Indian Act. As well, the natives have agreed

to phase out their traditional exemptions from income and sales taxes over a 12-year period. Observed Chief Joe Mathias of the First Nations Summit, an umbrella group representing B.C. tribal councils: "This is a document that will go down in history."

The current Nisga'a claim had dragged on for two decades until Mike Harcourt made the settlement of all native claims a high priority when his NFP government took power in 1991. But public faith in the process was shaken last year by media reports that negotiated settlers were stalling claims to virtually the entire province. Confidence was further eroded last summer when critics not involved in the treaty talks set up roadblocks to press their own agendas.

The talks proved both contentious when Harcourt announced his resignation in November. The process, who formerly resigned last week, was a driving force behind the treaty process and was apparently determined that the Nisga'a deal would be signed on his watch. His successor may not be so committed since land claims are often to become a major issue during the election campaign. Last week, B.C. Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Cankins critically endorsed the agreement, emphasizing that the government intended to consult the public about its contents and to make changes where warranted. "It is hard to say where the NFP will go," concludes Chief Mathias. "We don't know what our cabinet at Harcourt has been our strong voice, and we're going to raise him."

Uncertainty persists on native claims will depend on public support, and some observers believe that the tentative Nisga'a deal will actually help ease British Columbia's tensions. "It is likely that the Nisga'a deal will be the first in a series," says Paul Tremblay, a University of British Columbia political scientist and the province's first minister of aboriginal affairs. "They are a pragmatic people and they have been willing to negotiate. This is a real deal. It is what was expected."

In fact, the eventual land and cash settlement will be well below the 10,000 square miles of land and \$3.1 billion in cash the Nisga'a originally demanded. According to Tremblay, the deal, if not exactly a blueprint, will at least set parameters for future settlements. "It will bring a real reality check to the public debate," he says. "Much of which has been based on scare tactics." Perhaps. But last week, with a B.C. election campaign looming, the political war of words over native land claims showed little sign of cooling soon.

ROBIN WELLS
in Vancouver



CANADA

A shot across the bow

It was nothing more than an admission of the obvious. But Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Jean Boivin's statement last week that the Canadian army is incapable of leading into combat new shock waves through a defence community accustomed to the often less-than-candid public statements of his predecessors. Boivin, 48, chosen ahead of several more senior generals by Defence Minister David Collette last December to head the Canadian Forces, is the man the Clinton government is counting on to provide long-term stability for Canada's military. Last week, though, Boivin's candid warning that stability will not be achieved with further budget cuts. "Rightly, a frank statement about the present situation," said Nicholas Stephens, director of the Toronto-based Strategic Analysis Group. "It's respected because he has and he's going to tackle the real problems."

Boivin's warning was stark. "If the government asked me to go into a high-intensity theatre with the equipment that I have today, I'd have to say I can't do it," he told the Globe and Mail. Those words, some analysts said, were part of a two-pronged effort to show troops that he is on their side, while attempting to reassure Finance Minister Paul Martin's anticipated defence cuts in the March budget. Annual spending on the Forces is scheduled to fall by \$1.3 billion to \$27.7 billion by 1997, with the worst of the cuts coming in the 1990s. Further cuts, Boivin warned, would result in "severe difficulties."

Whether the government is listening or another question. Debate in cabinet over further cuts in the military has apparently been

The chief says his forces are unfit for war

Boivin's candid warning that stability will not be achieved with further budget cuts.



deeply revealing starkly different views on Canada's defence policy. And that, Stephens says, easily reflects the public's confusion about the role of the military in the post-Cold War era. General Boivin, chairman of the Ottawa-based polling firm Comcon Inc., says that when Canadians are asked about the country's place in the world, they generally seem willing to spend more on the military. "But," said Boivin, "when the public seriously discusses defence priorities and spending, defence is way down on the list."

The same holds true in Ottawa, where for 15 years DND has been a favorite target for deficit-conscious governments. Some observers, such as Reform party defence critic Jim Hart, speculate that Collette, who has pushed through the acquisition of new armoured vehicles and search and rescue helicopters, will see more that Boivin would make his comments last week. The warning, they say, would help him face down cabinet critics of defence spending in substance of

Martin's budget. "It sure looks like some kind of orchestrated exercise," said Hart, who nevertheless praised Boivin's honesty. The question is whether it will sway people like Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and Finance Minister Lloyd Austin, who have warned that it will be hard to justify cuts to social programs if the military is not pared further.

For the moment, Martin appears to be on the side. A senior defence official told Martin's staff, for one, Collette has likely won the battle and that defence will not be hit hard in the coming budget. But Boivin's warning did not move supporters, who responded by suggesting that the army need not worry about combat. "We want to specialize and put our resources where they will be most effective, which is in keeping the peace," the former aboriginal minister said.

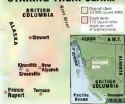
Some say Boivin's warning has also been one of the most vocal critics opponents of another proposal the purchase of four nearly new diesel-electric submarines from Britain for a total of \$600 million. The debate in cabinet over the proposed expenditure—the submarine's original price was \$2 billion—because so divisive that the final decision, expected in the next few weeks, has been left exclusively to the Prime Minister. Defence supporters of the purchase, meanwhile, are making their views known. Peter Hadden, a retired naval commander who served for seven years in submarines and is now a research fellow at Dalhousie University in Halifax, says that submarines are necessary and useful weapons that can also be used in

such noncombat roles as fisheries patrol and drug interdiction. Declared Hadden: "Crimes say that if we need underwater patrols off our coast for one day in the Americas, as is the case, then we need a navy." He also believes NATO, rejecting the offer will further damage Canada's reputation within NATO.

Of greater concern, though, is the Canadian military's reputation at home. The second war against the "seamy" war of duty in Somalia—Canadian soldiers killed two Somalis, including a teenager who was tortured and beaten to death—has left many Canadians jaded. The planned reduction of \$1.3 billion in the annual defence budget by 1996 has not done a public outcry, despite the fact that 32,000 military are civilian jobs will be cut. With his blunt words, Boivin appears willing to try to make the future of the Forces a greater part of the national agenda.

LEE KEE FRISHER in Ottawa

STAKING THEIR CLAIM



MARCH 04 1996

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A NEW LEADER FOR THE BLOC

In Montreal, Bloc Québécois MP's and party officials elected Michel Gauthier MP for Roberval, to succeed Lucien Bouchard as head of the party and the leader of Canada's official Opposition. Gauthier received 134 votes, compared with 51 for his Commons colleagues, Yves-Louis Landry. In brief remarks in English, Gauthier said that a new partnership with Quebec would "address the real issues such as the economy, social challenges and commercial exchanges."

HUNTING A SUSPECTED KILLER

Toronto police launched a manhunt for Adrian Rickard, 28, wanted in the slaying deaths of two teenage sisters last August and a subway ticket collector in October, as well as for two sexual assaults. Avoided on procurement and bail orders charges, Rickard was released on bail in May 1994, after a youth worker testified that he had been employed for six months at a Toronto architectural firm. An owner of the firm denied that Rickard ever worked for him.

DRIVE-BY CONVICTION

Ruben Henderson, 37, was convicted in the downtown Ottawa drive-by killing of British engineer Nicholas Datsheby, 27, in March, 1994. Henderson's trial-like trial of two other teenagers convicted in the death—had been moved to adult court. He faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment with no parole for at least 10 years.

AIRBUS APPEAL DENIED

Quebec Court of Appeal Justice André Boudreau denied federal lawyers the right to appeal for more information on former prime minister Brian Mulroney's \$50-million bid lost in the so-called Airbus affair. The federal lawyers were seeking details about Mulroney's professional activities while leaving office—information they said they needed to defend their clients. Mulroney is suing the police department and the federal crown corporations that he received \$5 million in kickbacks in the 1985 sale of Airbus planes to Air Canada.

TWICE ACQUITTED

For the second time in less than two years, a court martial jury found former lieutenant-colonel Carl Manning not guilty of negligent performance of duty. Manning, now retired, was commanding officer of the Canadian Airborne Regiment during its mission in Somalia in 1992-1993. He was charged after soldiers read they had received an order to shoot looters. Following his first acquittal, an appeal court ordered a new trial, along judicial review.

Canada
NOTES

ATLANTIC ANGER: Fisheries workers and supporters march through downtown Halifax to protest against restrictive new federal rules for the troubled East Coast fishery. The fishermen say that the rules—including massive fee increases that have raised the cost of some fishing licenses from \$80 to \$8,000—will put them out of business. The march came as other protesters continued to occupy three fisheries department offices in Nova Scotia.

Judge backs down

Facing a barrage of criticism from victims' relatives, a Nova Scotia Superior Court judge sharply changed his mind and decided not to move the public inquiry into the Westray mine explosion to Halifax. Instead, Justice Peter Richard said on the weekend that the final phase of the inquiry's hearings, involving government inspectors and politicians, will be rescheduled for the beginning of March in St. John's, N.S., near the site of the 1992 underground explosion that killed 26 miners.

The judge's decision, earlier in the week to relocate the inquiry to Halifax—where most of the remaining witnesses are based—marked a repudiation of the Westray Families Group. Over the past 19 weeks, members of that organization have regularly attended the hearings in St. John's. Calvert Bell, whose husband's brother, Larry, died in the explosion, told Richard that the weeks to hear for himself the responses of provincial mining inspectors who have been accused as earlier in-

stances of failing to enforce safety standards at the mine. "I've got to hear what they've got to say regardless of if they're innocent or they're guilty," said a family Bell.

In a news release announcing his change of heart, Richards wrote: "It seems my interest in moving to the efficient completion of these hearings took precedence over compassion."

Turban victory

A five-year legal struggle ended after the Superior Court of Canada rejected a bid by a group of retired Alberta Muslims to appeal a lower court decision that allows Sikh members of the RCMP to wear turbans instead of the traditional Stetson. Kim Riess, one of the former RCMP officers who initiated the action, said that the fight against turbans will continue at the political level. The Liberals and the Bloc Québécois have no position on the turban issue, while the Reform party has passed a resolution supporting the "preservation of the distinct heritage and traditions of the RCMP by retaining the uniformity of dress code."

THE ARAFAT ERA

Critics and money woes greet a new president

Walid Hatibian is a hepatologist who has been receiving blood transfusions at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital for most of his young life. Two years ago, when Gaza was under Israeli occupation, 13-year-old Walid was treated there when he needed it—seven if that meant traveling to another hospital within the borders of the Jewish state. Now, under Palestinian rule, Walid's mother, Uta Hatibian, must line up repeatedly to get an appointment at the overburdened Gaza clinic, which no longer enjoys the full support of Israel's formidable medical system. She fears blood transfusions will threaten her son's life if there is an emergency. At the same time, though new rules bar her two oldest sons from working inside Israel, ensuring they and Hatibian's shopkeeper husband must struggle to support the family of 14—all living in three rooms at the Shifa refugee camp.

The family's travails underscore the bitter-sweet dilemma facing Palestinians 18 months after Yasser Arafat's triumphant arrival in the newly autonomous regions of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, self-governments that have brought a sense of political freedom, but the governing Palestinian Authority has yet to improve economic and social conditions. In elections in January, Arafat's Fatah party won nearly 70 percent of the 44 seats in the legislative council, a new parliament. And Arafat himself, sworn in as president last week, set 66 per cent of the vote. But for the first time, the Palestinian leader is accountable to democratically elected opponents who are quick to attack his poor economic performance and autocratic style—including a preoccupation with security and controlling the media.

"People began to ask, although we lived under Israeli harsh occupation, we also saw how they governed themselves," explains Dr. Hakeb Salim Alwan, a pediatrician at Shifa. "There is a strong social security structure that takes care of every citizen in Israel. Palestinians expect that their government will be structured in a similar way. Anything less will be a disappointment." Arafat's critics also point to a tall order that leaders who merely can't implement during their years in exile could scarcely give more than two million people, themselves distrustful of authority after three decades of rule by a hostile occupying force. "Frankly, I



Palestinians protest solitary arrests. Arafat risks for international and in Switzerland (right): a full order

thought nobody could rule the Palestinians," says West Bank sociologist Joy Abu Shakra. "They are people who have always viewed those in authority with distrust and suspicion." The new regime is further hampered by the peace accords with Israel which regulate everything from border controls to trading partners.

Building it all together is the formidable Arafat, 66, known for his one-man control—also say he decides the smallest details himself—and savvy political maneuvering. When he returned from exile in July 1994, Arafat ordered flags raised, passports and stamps issued, government offices opened and stations granted. The letterhead has been put to good use: But the passports are worthless more than around travel documents from a self-styled administration, and the stamps are good only for collectors in an area with no locally run postal service. Still, Arafat has installed a 40,000-strong bureaucracy and a security service of 20,000, which expanded its initial capacity on an apparently successful drive to oust the Israeli from the militant Islamic group Hamas and other extremist corners of the power process.

Arafat's other key achievement to date has been convincing the Israeli army's partial withdrawal from towns and cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the second phase of the 1993 peace agreement



Peres: Help from Arafat's legacy

whole process," says Israeli cabinet member Yossi Beilin. "I believe Arafat understands its importance."

Peres has maintained a comfortable lead over the more hawkish Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu ever since Peres's assassination in November. A Dohat Institute poll this month found Peres leading Netanyahu 51 per cent to 36 per cent.



with Israel. For a brief honeymoon period last fall, he won the "liberator" of each newly autonomous town, his face bobbing up on balloons as power passed in orderly fashion from Israeli to Palestinian. That he still was enough to carry the January vote. "We are also looking beyond that positive results of my kind," says Bethlehem student Steven Michael. "In the end it's results that matter. The Israeli withdrew and now we are free—thanks to Arafat."

Yet most Palestinians are actually living worse under self-rule than

they did under occupation—at least in the short term. Gaza's laborers complain that their catch zones have shrunk since the Palestinian Authority took control. "We used to be able to catch three times as many fish as we do now," says Mahmoud Hindawi, one of 3,000 fishermen in the area. Although he gave his vote last month to a candidate who took up the issue, it is unlikely that even Arafat can change fishing limits that the authority says were imposed by the Israelis.

Bread and butter issues, such as housing and jobs, were the basis of many campaign pledges. "I promise that no one will ever have to live with his mother-in-law again," declared one candidate. But such promises are hard to keep. About 45,000 Palestinians currently work as laborers within Israel, down from nearly 200,000 before the self-rule deal. A terror lift last year by Hamas and Islamic Jihad led Israel to drop permits to unarmored Palestinian vans under 20—and to slow down and increase migrant workers instead. The change has contributed to a whopping 60-per-cent unemployment rate in the self-rule zones. Israel further angered Palestinians last week by closing the borders completely for several days, saying they had intelligence reports of a planned terror attack by Hamas militants. "The single most important issue for Palestinians right now is employment," says Torje Larsen, special UN co-ordinator in the region.

One bright spot is construction, where \$666 million in phased housing projects on the Gaza seashore alone will provide jobs to many—about \$18 a day rather than the \$24 paid under Israel. Hashim Qudusman, a developer based in Haifa and Amman, says low-cost residential units are going up that Gazans and West Bank Palestinians can buy as an investment for \$25,000. And much more commercial building is possible, says Qudusman. "There is no infrastructure as such, no shopping areas, no media roots and no hotels. The private sector will be taking care of this and of things." Palestinian economist George Abud estimates private investment in the West Bank alone—largely in construction and light industry—will total about \$2 billion in the next few years.

That leaves the public sector in the Palestinian Authority, which has already come under scrutiny for its spending habits. Arafat single-handedly controls tax revenues of \$90 million a month. That and \$1 billion in donations from Europe and other countries, including \$40 million from Saudi Arabia, has so far helped him beyond his worst-case scenario. Another \$2 billion is expected to arrive in Arafat's domain by March 2000. "We can't hold him accountable for that money; then we don't deserve democracy," says Rabbat Salameh, one of two Christians elected to the legislative council.

SEEKING THE PEACE VOTE

Yasser Arafat had promised Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin before his assassination that within two months of West Bank and Gaza elections he would convene a peace conference. Now, under the Covenant that call for the destruction of the Jewish state. Now, Arafat's ability to honor that pledge will either boost or damage the electoral fortunes of Rabin's successor.

Shimon Peres, as he campaigns for re-election at the end of May, Arafat needs Peres in order to confront his push towards full statehood. Arafat Peres needs Arafat in order to show that his Labour Party can bring peace to Israel. "Failure to amend the covenant would slow down the

peace process," says Israeli cabinet member Yossi Beilin. "I believe Arafat understands its importance."

Peres has maintained a comfortable lead over the more hawkish Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu ever since Peres's assassination in November. A Dohat Institute poll this month found Peres leading Netanyahu 51 per cent to 36 per cent.

Peacekeeper Rabin has become a virtual cult figure in Israel, and Labour intends to use his name and picture. But it seeks to avoid charges it is exploiting a national tragedy. "We will not run Rabin into a flag," said party secretary general Nissan Zivik, "but we will certainly promote his legacy."

Netanyahu, meanwhile, has entered a marriage of convenience with former army commander Ariel Sharon and his small Tzomet party. Gaza withdrew his own presidential bid, which threatened to split the nationalist vote. Still, analysts doubt whether the alliance will be enough to win Netanyahu the top spot.

The battle had begun even before Peres last week formally called the election for May 26—five months earlier than originally scheduled. Candidate promises were rising in most major parties. For the first time, Israelis will vote separately for a prime minister and for the 120 members of the parliamentary Knesset. But there remains an undercurrent of anxiety about the reform process, which calls for a new election if the prime minister is reappointed. Says then Knesset, a senior fellow of the Israel Democracy Institute: "It increases the incentive to kill the prime minister because by doing so you could run an entire mandate." A Jewish nationalist party is under way, but the shadow of the Rabin assassination lingers on.

ERIC SILVERMAN in Jerusalem

all from the Bethlehem district.

The new disputes are also demanding more accessibility in the area of human rights. Under Arafat's tenure, at least four people have died from violence in Palestinian jails. "After assuming responsibility for internal security, the Palestinian Authority has failed to anchor its conduct in the rule of law," said a report by the New York City-based Human Rights Watch last year. "It has often acted in an arbitrary and repressive fashion, carrying out large numbers of political arrests, censoring the press and showing little determination to investigate suspected abuses in a serious fashion." Soon after Arafat took over, he closed the East Jerusalem paper, *Al-Naba*, for a month. The conservative *Jerusalemian* editorials in December, the editor of another East Jerusalem newspaper was arrested after he failed to run a satirical article about Arafat on the front page. Within weeks, two prominent Palestinian rights activists were also detained for voicing their concerns about the regime.

Arafat's record has prompted renewed apprehensions, this time not from the extremist Muslim camp but from about 20 secular deputies who have vowed to challenge the leader's autocratic style. "This is not the best parliament, but I will insist that it be a democratic one," said Hader Adadi Shih, who topped the polls for the council. "We are not accountable to the president. We are accountable to our people only." Shih, 72, led 118 prominent dissidents in a 1994 protest against Arafat's "disorganized and unrepresentative" governing style. Another popular Arabist came in Haneh Adnan, who raised worldwide notice as the Palestinian spokeswoman during the 1993 Madrid peace talks and as one of the few women elected to the council. "Before being elected you speak as an individual and have little weight," she says. "When you are elected and you object, you speak on behalf of a group, as the most legitimate way."

It will now be up to the legislature to provide the checks and balances for Arafat's newly legitimized mandate as he steers his people from custom-fueled enclaves towards statehood. The status of Jerusalem, the fate of Jewish settlers in nearby territories, sovereignty and fiscal barriers are among the tricky issues on the final round of negotiations. They were never far from the mind. It may be that could be delayed at least a month by the Israeli election that month. Palestinians are now anxious to move beyond self-rule zones laid by corridor land guarded by Israeli soldiers. "Today Jews, tomorrow Jerusalem" read a poster last year that said: "We must think long. The goal is to conclude a comprehensive settlement by the end of the century. If Yasser Arafat can do that, he might be able to co-chair on a second political life as president of an independent Palestinian state."

NORM FADENBERG with **ANDREW SHAMANT** in the West Bank and Gaza Strip



Peace demonstrators in London's Trafalgar Square

BRITAIN

Back to the 'madness'

The second bomb was small enough to fit inside a gym bag, and it never even went off. But by dropping it in a telephone booth in London's theatre district early one afternoon last week, members of the Irish Republican Army showed how easily they can turn the heart of Europe's largest city into a ghost town. In time-squared Irish style, the terrorists sent coded warnings to police, allowing authorities to close West End London streets while bomb disposal experts defused the explosive. But defusing the crisis confronting the Irish peace process will be far more delicate work. The second bomb—defusing by no days the Feb. 9 IRA blast in London's Docklands area that killed two—greatly enigmatised the IRA's credibility as the cause of the war with Britain was no sign "as long as necessary."

London was the IRA's strategic target, but the psychological damage of a renewed bombing campaign quickly eclipsed anger at the Irish fire to the threatened citizens of Northern Ireland. "We are totally devastated by what has happened," said Pauline McLoughlin, a social worker with Belfast's Families Against Intimidation and Terror. "People are crying out for protection to stop gunplay/robbery around and the fearfulness for the sake of the people who have lived with this pain for 20 years." But the effort to get all the parties around a negotiating table—

started before the bombing—now seems even more stymied. After the Docklands explosion, the governments of London and Dublin broke off a senior-level talks with Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, and the ceasefire is threatened. That reaction left those outside the terrorist's inner circle pondering a mystery: knowing that bombs would only harm prospects for all-party talks, why did the IRA resume the violence?

"The understanding underlying the peace process—the end game—was that the IRA, given up peace and then we'll have to live with them for months now," explains Lee Gerry Reynolds of Belfast's Clarendon Literary Press at Clarendon, an imposing grey building in the literary workers' district. Catholic community of West Belfast, where a candidate between Sinn Féin and the Dublin government in the years before the ceasefire, when politicians such as Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams were officially shunned by mainstream leaders because of their IRA links. "West Belfast is internal with posters that say, 'Wigmore talks now,'" says Reynolds. "The British government is making things altogether too difficult for themselves. This is an Irish problem that will only be solved when the two traditions here sit down with each other and create a new deal. All that the British government has to do is the deal for itself. The rest is up to us."

The IRA vows to fight on for 'as long as is necessary'

That advice has long failed to impress British Prime Minister John Major. The British government, which has acknowledged that it held secret talks with Sinn Féin, says that the ceasefire, subsequently denied the party a place at the negotiating table throughout 17 months of peace. Major set precedents for the talks either a ceremony of his weapons, or new elections to determine who would be allowed to sit at the table. Ever-widening British links to the violence suggested "I think it's madness, but the old republican tradition of armed struggle is back in the forefront," he says. And that frustrates people like Pauline McLoughlin. "The thought of going back to the old ways of the Troubles," she said last week, "is too horrifying to contemplate."

DORICE WALLACE in London

UNITED STATES

The tortoise gains ground

For Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, the slow-moving lane in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, the odds closed in his favor as he took a leading position as a leading force for suddenly on his tail—Pat Buchanan. "I'm excited," said the Indiana Del, slapping at Buchanan in new TV commercials after the talker pulled out several in Iowa since last week. But on the top line in the state-by-state race, the campaign for New Hampshire's Feb. 20 primary election, former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander dented Buchanan and claimed that he himself is Dole's chief rival. Alexander, running in a plodding but sure bet to be placed a surprising third in Iowa's new state trial, forecast that it will soon be down to "Senator Dole and I."

Alexander, 50, also politically at Dole's age. He repeats his refusal that Republicans have great respect for Dole. "I'll be telling him, 'You're not the best man to be the first president in the next century.' (Other terms at stake are Nov. 5 runs in January, 2001, when Dole will be 77.) Alexander insists that he is the man to beat incumbent Democrat Bill Clinton. "I represent new ideas, the future, new leadership," says Alexander. "Senator Dole represents old ways and the Bushmen represents the worst ideas."

Alexander's claims also represent the new confidence of a broad-based coalition who largely still love the Republicans' road into this third spot with 25 per cent of the vote. He dominated magazine owner Steve Forbes only recently the main race, to fourth spot at 10 per cent. Dole was with 36 per cent, with Buchanan three points behind. He pushed Senator Phil Gramm of Texas out of the race and left the rest with a close.

After an all-out drive to beat in New Hampshire last week, certain polls rated Alexander an underdog, but he has been ordered by his party officials Buchanan's campaign themes. Buchanan couples his own apocalyptic, gun control and other perverted social aims with attacks on free trade and his business for "downsize" employment. Even Dole last week borrowed a Buchanan line knocking by business. "Corporate profits are setting records and so are corporate layoffs," he complained.

As Alexander carried his campaign to New Hampshire, the lawyer-politician was hit by reports detailing charges that he used his influence to expand his wealth and develop a 1,000-acre wildlife retreat. He denied any wrongdoing. But the reports, rather than being, appeared a day after Alexander was announced as Democratic Sen. William Bennett, a former education secretary, outgoing chair and candidate of The Book of Virtues, a bestselling 1993 "Treasury of Great Moral Stories" as the subtitle calls it. Bennett, a crusader against Hollywood immorality, is a former of *Empire America*, a self-described "progressive-conservative" think-tank whose chairman is Steve Forbes. Alexander, while in a TV interview that he and Bennett "see eye to eye" on social issues, touched on his own blend and belief regarding compared with Bennett's. "We're different," he said. "He could stand up and say, 'What a pleasant day,' and everybody would say, 'What a great conservative speech.' And I could stand up

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

BY CARL HULLINS

choose, playing teachers none for nothing well, ending Washington's welfare and turning it into a welfare state, taking drugs and cancelling our borders." Preparing a portrait of U.S. Congress and more power for the states, Alexander claims to be a political outsider even though he worked as a congressman and White House aide before serving as Tennessee's governor (1975-1987).



Candidate Alexander, also, author, *Treasury of Virtues*

and as education secretary in George Bush's cabinet (1990-1993).

Alexander subscribes to the Republican script of federal spending cuts and a balanced budget, but that view has been ordered by his party officials Buchanan's campaign themes. Buchanan couples his own apocalyptic, gun control and other perverted social aims with attacks on free trade and his business for "downsize" employment. Even Dole last week borrowed a Buchanan line knocking by business. "Corporate profits are setting records and so are corporate layoffs," he complained.

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and say, 'Let's hang in by their toes and cut out their cords,' and everybody would say, 'What a pleasant person.'"

Some Washington Republicans see Lamar Alexander as a fallback if Dole loses but

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President may not do it in an increasingly rough race for the presidency. Alexander, while in a TV interview that he and Bennett "see eye to eye" on social issues, touched on his own blend and belief regarding compared with Bennett's. "We're different," he said. "He could stand up and say, 'What a pleasant day,' and everybody would say, 'What a great conservative speech.' And I could stand up

Master of Mumbai

A controversial nationalist renames Bombay

It's a typical Indian movie plot, a grumpy teenager loses the monopoly of village life he has built for himself in the cosmopolitan, pulsating mass of 14 million people that the world knows as Bombay. In this city of infinite possibilities, where the young are seeking after the government, with poverty tyrannous, the young hero inevitably transforms himself into a wave and famous movie star. The city has long been nicknamed "Bollywood" home to the world's most prolific film industry, which often stars its own rich and famous of crime and commerce as a backdrop.

Now the script is changing. The old liberal, progressive Bombay finds itself ruled from afar by a Hindu nationalist whose rise to power plays more like a political thriller than a romantic success story. With his dark glasses, jet-black hair and ivory silk pajamas, Bal Thackeray has come to be regarded—or berated—as the undisputed master of the metropolis. Head of his power caste this month as the city officially changed its name to Mumbai.

Although never elected to office, the flamboyant Thackeray, 68, controls Mumbai's home state of Maharashtra. After elections last January, his Hindu nationalist Shiv Sena party took over the state in a coalition with an other nationalist party (the Nationalist Federal Congress Party). Thackeray's party had reluctantly endorsed Thackeray's plan to rename the nation's largest city as Mumbai. It was not a late January decision for updating addresses, signs and laws, as well as rechristening thousands of firms that use the name. The venerable Times of India national daily began renaming the Mumbai date last month. And Air India now uses the new moniker in its advertising.

Bombay has always been known as Mumbai in Marathi and Gujarati, the two local languages of over 10 million people who live in Mumbai. Deva, goddess of the sea, is the deity at the edge of the Arabian Sea on which the city was built. But it has officially been Bombay since the city's original British settlers were taken by Portugal in 1534. The Portuguese pronounced the word *bombaim* as good Bay. They transferred their no-questions asked Bombay to the locale in England in 1668, an advisory gift after the wedding of Catherine Braganza to Charles II. It was not as if Bombay's city of dreams, a magnet for the hopeful of all classes, "Bombay wonders success," says Shobha Datta, who became India's best-selling English-language writer with her own first English novel about the glitzy life in India's fast lane. "You make money, you are seen as a successful person and that's it."

India's boomtown is still adjusting to its new role by a Hindu chauvinist and extreme political cartoonist who has derided Adolf Hitler as "an artist who wanted Germany to be free from corruption." Thackeray openly boasts of his marketable hold over the state's central bank economy. Mumbai lives "it is made by creative control," says Thackeray.

He is also king of Mumbai's lavish real estate market—some of the most costly in the world, where prime office space rents for \$100 per square foot annually (New York City \$65, San Francisco \$100). Each morning, Thackeray

two campaigns. Many accuse him of fomenting the religious tension that led to Hindu-Muslim riots that swamped the city three years ago. He has also been linked to members of the city's mob underworld. But the rebels have linked him to his detractors as his party's weekly newspaper. Key targets have been Bangladeshis, whom he claims are overcrowding the city's slums, scantily dressed Muslims whom he believes are corrupting Hindu morals, and Coca-Cola, which dared to sponsor the national cricket team of India's archrival Pakistan. Thackeray also infamously opposed the entry of the U.S. electricity company Enron Corp., whose offer, amounting to \$3.2-billion power plant—the country's largest foreign project—now has him blowing.

In some cases Thackeray acted and even intervened to see his will done. In August, he broke distributors of Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh* presented as sale in Mumbai, afraid Thackeray would take offense at an instantly recognizable character: a cartoonist called Raza Mulla's caricature of



Thackeray (left) and Joshi perform a spring festival rite "inside control"

books court in a double-floored room of his suburban home, entertaining supporters for building approvals. Three visitors recently sought his blessing for a 200-bed cancer hospital. Thackeray was informed until the news was leaked after the word Bombay "has gone home and start changing," Mumbai, Mumbai, Mumbai," he reminded them. His acronym complex—quadrant—ditch his party has its hands in millions of transactions.

As the undisputed protector of the Hindu majority against the 14 per cent of the Indian population that is Muslim, Thackeray has seen his Hindu rhetoric come back to haunt him. In December, the Supreme Court in New Delhi upheld a guilty decision against him for inciting hatred against Muslims in his profane speeches during a 1987 elec-

tion starts a Hindu extremist party that relies on thugs to consolidate its power. In real life, Shiv Sena leaders have backed out race-based or communal buildings that did not comply with the race-change code.

His dispute with the Sena's hardcore and hardline tactics, those before and now, has led him to believe that the party's rise over the years has already had a moderating effect on its extremists. And it is still unclear how long the center of Mumbai's extremes will last. As people in India and abroad wrap their thumbs around the new official name, most city residents seem to feel that even a new director cannot completely reinvent the city for them. Mumbai will always be Bombay.

SUZANNE GOLDENBERG in Mumbai

CHINESE ROCKET EXPLODES

A Chinese Long March rocket exploded in midair 26 seconds after lift-off and exploded, killing at least four people and further ending back Beijing's commercial space program. The incident, carrying a communications satellite, was the second satellite-launcher in 10 months to crash.

FARRAKHAN ON TOUR

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan shocked many Americans by venting his rage at Clinton Gaudin Harems, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and his Italian officials. In Baghdad, Farrakhan denounced Washington's war stance against Iraq as "wicked" and said they were leading to the "mass murder" of the Iraq people. A U.S. state department spokesman called the visit "inappropriate."

A HIGH-STAKES DEFLECTION

The former wife of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has deflected, according to the South Korean government. It said Sung Hui the first woman in history after defusing during a Swiss occasion. The deflection of Sung, one of the few people with inside information on North Korea's enigmatic "Great Leader," would be another blow to the troubled 10 months since the death of his father, Kim Il Sung. The country is believed to be in the grip of a famine after severe flooding.

AGREEMENT IN MEXICO

Zapata rebels agreed to the first of six planned pacts that will constitute a peace treaty with the Mexican government. A six-member Zapata spokesman said the majority of Indians in the Chiapas region support the accord, which deals with Indian culture and rights.

RAIL DISASTER

At least 11 people died in Maryland when an Amtrak train derailed after the Chicago-based commuter train carrying Big Cops pulled home to the Washington area for the weekend. Rescue crews worked through the night to pull bodies from the mangled wreckage of the commuter train. The explosion from the crash sent a fireball into the sky and injured at least 26 people.

LETTING IT ALL OUT

Balkan doctors found that heart patients who suppressed negative emotions such as anger and frustration were four times more likely to die than those who expressed themselves. Researchers described the bottled-up syndrome a "Type D" personality and urged physicians to consider a patient's character traits.

World NOTES



A VIOLENT VOTE: A burning truck confronts one of more than 300,000 Bangladeshis security troops deployed to keep order during controversial national elections. States people were killed and 800 injured on voting day. Prime Minister Khaderia, Sena's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party won virtually by default after the three main opposition parties boycotted the vote. The leading opposition group vowed to call new strikes to challenge Khaderia.

Bosnia's crisis

Tension remained high in Bosnia as the leaders who started the country's peace efforts held a weekend summit in Rome. The crisis talks were spoiled by the arrest and extradition of two Bosnian Serb army officers accused of war crimes, as well as friction between Muslims and Croats in the southern Bosnian city of Mostar and arguments over prisoner exchanges. The Serbian effort, supported by killing civilians in the Sarajevo area, was detained in the capital in late January by the Bosnian government. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, himself wanted for war crimes, immediately cut off ties with the government and the NATO-led peacekeeping force, demanding the officers' release.

After U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who helped broker the peace accords, held talks with all sides in Sarajevo, the two officers were flown to a jail in The Hague, headquarters of the UN war crimes tribunal. At the same time, the Bosnian government agreed that it would no longer arrest war crimes suspects without approval from the tribunal. Although the United States announced that the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia would meet in Rome to try to smooth what Holbrooke called "a bang on the road" to peace.

Yeltsin to run
To no one's great surprise, Boris Yeltsin announced he would seek reelection in June as Russian president, although he conceded it could be tough. Plevins gave the lead to Genady Yegorovich, 64-year-old head of the national Communist Party, which lost last year's election but for the post. Yeltsin, 66, was evidently unfazed by two heart attacks he has suffered in the past year. He pledged to continue his economic reforms and said he hoped to end the unpopular war in Chechnya before the election. Others expected to run were the job include Gennadiy Yavlinsky and Vladimir Lukin, former Soviet ambassador to the U.S. and current Russian ambassador to the U.S. and current Russian ambassador to the U.S.

SAMSUNG



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STRIKING IT RICH

How Falconbridge CEO Frank Pickard engineered a \$4-billion nickel bid

BY JENNIFER WELLS

Frank Pickard, Sudbury-born metallurgist, is a man who seems somewhat out of sync with his surroundings. Pickard has been a mining guy all his life, having spent very nearly 40 years with Falconbridge Ltd., the Toronto-based nickel, copper and zinc company. For the past five years, he has been chief executive officer, which puts him in a discomfortable office tower. The tower is cut-off in several levels. The boardroom is cool, bland marble.

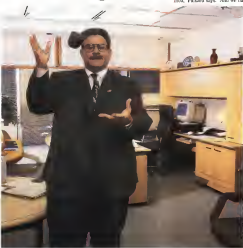
Pickard himself is a straight-up guy: a whistysweat-whistysweat sort. He likes rocks. Yet it is Pickard who on Feb. 3 struck a stunning \$4-billion deal with Singapore-based stock promoter Robert Friedland for Friedland's Diamond Fields Resources Inc., which controls the Vasey's Bay nickel field in Labrador, which may well turn out to be the richest nickel zone in the planet.

Pickard says he has not seen anything like Vasey's in all his days. In 1994, when the first results started coming out of the property, Pickard assured it was nothing more than a prospecter's tall tale. A year later he met Friedland, who was trolling for companies to buy into Diamond Fields. Pickard says he "looked, talked and calculated." He made a presentation to the Falconbridge board. "The deal went no farther," three months later, it was not Falconbridge but Vancouver-based Inco Ltd. that announced it had bought seven per cent of Diamond Fields and 25 per cent of the Vasey's Bay deposit for \$200 million.

And there the story lay until Falconbridge made its \$4-billion bid for all of Diamond Fields and the 75 per cent of the ore body that Inco does not own. What, in the interim, had happened? The first part of the answer lies with Vasey's deal. By last fall, the nickel field had been transferred from a first-class mine property when Falconbridge made its initial study into what one broker calls "the Saudi Arabia of nickel." Consider first that Vasey's will produce more than 200 million pounds of nickel a year when it goes into production, first it will have a mine life at that rate of production of at least 25 years, that at conservative prices the site's initial metals—cobalt and copper—will more than recoup the costs of production. Producing a price of \$1 a pound for copper and \$10 a pound for cobalt, which currently sells for more than two and a half times that, the cost to produce a pound of nickel will be, says Pickard, near or less than \$500 million a year in pure profit.

What would Falconbridge want it for? In early January, Pickard met with Friedland again. Friedland, he says, was "anxious" to sell. In Pickard's view, Friedland's eagerness can be explained by the promoter's life of debt, of needing to move on to the next use of life as a plastic housing in China, with something called the Hands Capped Peoples Foundation life in gold mining in Indonesia, copper in Myanmar, gold in Kazakhstan. "He's already eight days away from this one," says one Friedland insider.

Friedland's efforts to sell Vasey's were nothing short of frenetic



Pickard, at first, his own shareholders thought he was crazy

Last month, he was simultaneously repudiating to sell Vasey's to Inco and packing for Europe to try to sell it to someone else. "I asked for an opportunity to bid on it," says Pickard. "He said, 'I'll give you 30 days.' I said, 'I can't do it in 30 days—give me two weeks.'"

Fourteen days and several hundred pages of internal Falconbridge studies later, Pickard made his presentation to the board. "The initial reaction was, 'Have you lost your mind?'" floors later, the board, in its entirety, had been won over. But then, the composition of the Falconbridge board today is very different from last year when Pickard first made his pitch. Falconbridge is controlled by Noranda Inc., which is controlled by the Howe-Elger group, the Toronto arm of the Breckenridge family Law firm around the board was heavily swayed with representatives from Trilliumberg AB, the Swedish mining com-

pany that then owned 26 per cent of Falconbridge. Trilliumberg has since sold its stake. Key board replacements were Jack Cockwell, co-chair of the Elgin Group Ltd., and Courtney Pratt, Noranda president. Together with Noranda CEO and Falconbridge board member David Kerr they formed an Elgin posse more disposed to the big swinging play than the conservative Sweden. Says Pickard, "You could read that into it and it would surely dispute it, but I'm not saying it."

The Falconbridge deal surprised the mining community. It certainly, says Pickard, surprised Mike Suglia, chief executive officer of Inco. "It became apparent when we got into discussions with them [Diamond Fields] that they had been negotiating with Inco," Pickard says. "And we had it as fairly good authority that they were negotiating with at least one other company." The two involved, Noranda's \$250M, Noranda SA of Luxembourg and BHP Co. of Australia.

The Falconbridge deal meant all-nighters for the mergers and acquisitions people at Wood Gundy (acting for Falconbridge) and CS First Boston and Nevitt Burns (acting for Diamond Fields). There were negotiations in closed P shares, as Pickard shares, which promise to deliver returns from underperformance to Diamond Fields Resources shareholders. And surprised the fact that an earlier voting agreement struck by Friedland with Teck Corp. of Vancouver, which has 18 per cent of Diamond Fields, and Inco meant that he could vote fully 40 per cent of the company. That point, says Diamond Fields chief financial officer Ed Mercedo, was "highlighted" when Wood Gundy approached Diamond Fields on Falconbridge's behalf. Friedland committed to take Falconbridge shares, and not only for his money, and so held 50 per cent of those for at least two years. He will also get a seat on the Falconbridge board, as will Mercedo and co-chairman Jon Raymond Reel.

Reagney Vasey's would not make Falconbridge for the world's largest nickel miner. That deal would remain with Inco, which last year sold 400 million pounds from its own production. But Inco could not meet its sales orders and had to buy 300 million pounds on the London Metal Exchange. On this, Inco did not make a penny. Nickel has been hot, particularly in the Pacific Rim. Two-thirds of nickel production goes into electric steel, which is in demand to make everything from ships to building frames. World consumption passed 900,000 tons last year and is still on the rise. Consequently, stocks on the LME have been depleted. If Inco wants to remain the world's market leader in nickel, it has to have control of low-cost production.

Inco's initial arrangement with Diamond Fields will have it marketing Vasey's nickel and cobalt production for 30 years. Most important is its 25-per-cent ownership of all of Vasey's, which, in retrospect, it got on the cheap. Nevertheless, the \$4 billion bid for Vasey's is, for Inco, an essential move.

"I really do think Inco is going to stand up and make a bid," says Bruce Reel, a mining analyst at Yurica Securities Inc. in Toronto. "They have to do it if they want to protect their position, so even the world's field also echoes what other observers of nickel consumption have said before, that the nickel market could use a Vasey's. By discovery every three years is over the consumption total. Initially, it will appear they're overpaid," says Reel. "In the long run, it's not going to matter. They have to be there." Inco president Scott Hard states the obvious: "That Inco's event must have made money for the company—and the mysterious." "This," he says, "is an evolving and exhilarating circumstance."

If Inco does bid, will Falconbridge respond? "There's some room," says Pickard, for Falconbridge to up the ante. He envisions the "same" sound metal deal. If Falconbridge's bid is a bit more apart, it will walk away with about \$500 million for its investors. Just another point in the jockeying for what will likely be the Canadian mining deal of the decade. □



Drilling rig at Vasey's Bay: low cost

A GROWING MARKET

World nickel demand in thousands of tons



NICKEL USES:

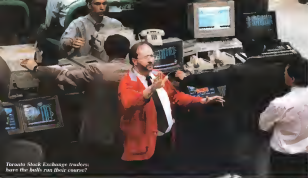


Stainless steel
kitchen sinks, cutlery, architectural
cladding, etc.

Non-alloying uses
welding, metal furniture,
refrigeration, batteries

Nonferrous alloys
coins, electronics, jet engine
components

Other



Toronto Stock Exchange traders have the bells run their course?

BUSINESS

Jumping on the bandwagon

Every year a few days before the deadline at the end of February for contributions to a registered retirement savings plan, Fred Reid ducks to turn his back to stock away some cash in a guaranteed investment certificate. But this year will probably be different. Frustrated by the low rates of interest currently paid on GICs, Reid is now shopping for a mutual fund that invests in the stock market. Reid, who formerly represented the double-digit rates paid on GICs in the inflationary 1980s, has until now modestly avoided the volatile world of stock-market investing. "I am a little nervous about the market," admits the 48-year-old Toronto graphic designer, who is married with a baby daughter. "But I am probably more fed up with GICs not paying a better return."

Welcome to retirement-planning anxiety in 1995. At a time when GIC rates are hovering between four and six per cent, depending on the terms, a growing number of Canadians are plunging into the stock market by investing in mutual funds. With the Toronto Stock Exchange hitting record highs recently, and some equity mutual funds posting one-year returns of more than 40 per cent, the market has become—in the view of many investors—a more attractive place to put their money. On top of that, rising concerns about the future of the Canada

With low interest rates, more Canadians are betting on mutual funds

Prudential has convinced many people of the need to save heavily for their retirements. Last month, Canadians bought \$2.7 billion worth of mutual funds, and most experts think the boom will continue. "There's very little to be the biggest month ever in the mutual fund industry in terms of sales—perhaps \$10 billion," says Dan Richards, president of Marketing Solutions, a Toronto market research company that specializes in the investment industry.

Hoping to grab a piece of that pie, fund companies have launched a barrage of advertising, much of it focusing on the healthy returns enjoyed by mutual fund investors in 1994. But despite the marketing push, Richards maintains that the driving force behind this season's mutual fund boom is the recent decline in interest rates. "If we weren't in a low-rate environment, the fund companies could advertise until the cows come home and it still wouldn't make a lot of sense," he says. Vancouver financial plan-

ner Jim Rogers, meanwhile, says that recent aggressive moves by the big funds to sell mutual funds have given those funds a more mainstream image. "Canadians trust their funds," says Rogers. "I don't think we can minimize the fact that the funds are involved in raising the profile of funds and making them—of you will—more legitimate."

Funds typically sell their own in-house mutual funds, which customers can buy and sell without a commission. But last month, Toronto Dominion Bank, which offers the Green Line family of funds, became the first major bank to market a wide range of competing funds that are normally available through stockbrokers and financial planners. Customers can now walk up to a teller's counter and purchase brand-name mutual funds managed by high-profile corporate names such as Tricor Financial Corp. and Templeton Management Ltd. By return, TD received a two-and-a-half per cent commission. "I think Wolfender, president of the subsidiary that oversees the bank's range of funds, says the bank decided to begin selling its competitors' products to satisfy customer demand for more choice. "The competition is very fierce, so no matter how much you advertise you will overtake the market," Wolfender says.

As the amount of money invested in mutual

fund grows, some financial advisers are warning investors to tread carefully. The roller-coaster ride of stocks and bond markets is not for everybody, they say. The last time mutual funds were so hot was in early 1994. Then, as now, investors were motivated by low interest rates and the aggressive returns generated by many funds the previous year. At an recent rates of interest, and stock and bond markets nosedived last year, many people panicked, sold their investments at a loss and headed back to the comfort and predictability of GICs—becoming what fund managers call "old reliables." Others held on during the market downturn, but avoided investing more money in mutual funds in 1995. Instead, they stuck with safer investments such as GICs or strip bonds—and, as a result, missed out on some of last year's stock-market gains.

The key question, of course, is whether people who jump into the mutual fund market can expect similar profits in 1995, or whether the bull market has almost run its course. Duff Young, a senior vice-president at brokerage firm Midland Walwyn Capital Inc., is among those who expect Canadian stock funds to perform well this year. But to avoid major surprises, Young urges fund holders to diversify their investments and not go overboard on the latest popular sector—such as precious metals funds, which invest



in gold, copper, aluminum and other metals. The most successful performer in that sector has been Rogers Precision Metals, which reported a stunning one-year gain of 63.6 per cent in 1994. On the strength of that performance, investors saw \$200 million into the fund in January alone, more than double its assets. "I see the gold rally as far real but I am considering investors not to go in blindly," says Young. "More than five per cent of your money in gold funds is probably inappropriate."

Young also advises investors to check a fund's year by year return instead of relying on compound average returns published monthly in newspapers or on television. For example, a fund that boasts an average return of 15 per cent over the past five years could well have lost money in two of those years while gaining in the other three. "Those compound returns can be misleading if a fund's previous record," says Young. "It is a fund making money losses in certain years," he says. "You have to ask yourself whether you are overweighted a little bit."

Not all financial advisers agree that now is the best time to invest in stock funds. Instead, Vancouver investment counsellor

David Smith's recommendation is that people make their RRSP contributions and this "jolt" the cash temporarily to a money-market mutual fund, which invests in fixed-income securities such as treasury bills, and take a wait-and-see approach before putting the money to work. "Yes, make your contributions," Smith says. "But this doesn't mean you have to be disappointed in investing in some fund or any other investments." Smith's financial adviser Fred Smith says RRSP investors can take a middle-ground approach by choosing a balanced mutual fund, which invests in both stocks and bonds. "There are a lot of people who are willing to give up potential returns for a more stable performance," he says.

For most investors, the smartest approach is to maintain a balanced asset portfolio—typically, a mix of stock and fixed-income mutual funds. The best mix will depend on the investor's age and risk tolerance. Gordon Page, a senior broker and author of several popular financial books, also stresses it should also take advantage of the rule that allows

20-percent foreign content in RRSPs. His advice is to stick with conservative international funds that invest in developed countries, which spread the risk, rather than in one country or a region. "The ones who got burned in the 1980s mutual funds were those who went after the big names—the Latin American and emerging-market funds," he says, warning to avoid funds that lost dramatically after big gains in 1993. "Investors who held on to those long-term, be wise. "Don't panic if things don't go right in the first three months."

Then Monro, the 37-year-old co-owner of a catering company in Vancouver, is one RRSP investor who is taking a longer-term approach. Monro, who is relying on her husband for retirement, has only been investing in stock funds since she opened her first RRSP two years ago. But she says she is comfortable with the risks of the market because she trusts her banker. "I never think about my funds," admits Monro. "As long as the bottom line keeps going up, I'm happy." Is the long run, she says, probably will let her and other mutual fund investors should not be surprised if there are dips along the way.

SHERLEY WONG

Maclean's Internet HISTORY

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Norjoko is the Canadian search engine on the Internet. Job hunters have access to career and salary information related to employment. Job seekers will find an opportunity to post their resume on job openings within seconds of their search. Computer-based, corporate individuals can search with Fortune 1000 companies.

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Training Technologies Conference (TTT '95)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/conference/ott.htm>

Hosted by University of Western Technology, Engineering and Computing (ETC) Program.

Business NOTES



A BRICKLIN FOR THE NINETIES: Former automotive entrepreneur Malcolm Brinklin hits on an EV: a motorized electric bicycle during his snowing in Las Vegas. Now Brinklin, who won bankruptcy protection the fall-rotated Brinklin, agents out in New Brunswick in the 1970s, plans to sell the battery-powered bikes through out dealerships across North America. Manufactured in partnership with Japanese electronics giant Sanyo, the bikes will sell for \$2,300.

Heading south

The Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia are investing heavily in two of Mexico's leading banks, hoping to profit from the Mexican economy as it rebounds from its current slump. The Bank of Nova Scotia has signed a letter of intent to purchase a 35-percent stake in Grupo Financiero Bursátil for \$60 million, while the Bank of Montreal is paying \$425 million for 36 per cent of Grupo Financiero Bursátil. Mexico's second-largest bank holding company. Executives with the two Canadian banks said they were optimistic that the Mexican economy is on the road to recovery. They added that the North American Free Trade Agreement should spur growth in the Mexican market. "It's a great opportunity," said ScotiaBank chairman Peter Godwin. "We're really into this for the very, very long term. It's a key part of our international strategy."

Canadian bank analysts upgraded the scores "With North America's free trade and the Mexican market opening up, both banks

have international aspirations," said analyst Burt Johnson of the Arthur Andersen consulting firm. "It opens the doors for them."

Home sales up

Falling mortgage rates appear to be breathing some life back into the market for mortgage loans. The Canadian Real Estate Association said that 32,981 homes were sold through its multiple listing service in January, compared with 3,295 in the same month a year earlier. The latest figures are still a far cry from the record level of the same month in 1986, when sales hit 36,381 houses. The association said that the buyers' market generated most of the sales activity last month, adding that sales were strongest in the Toronto area. Meanwhile, the trend to lower borrowing costs continued with a decision by the major banks to reduce their mortgage rates by one-quarter of a percentage point—the third round of cuts this year. With year-over-year inflation now at 1.6 per cent, many analysts expect rates to drop further in coming months.

SOFTWOOD AGREEMENT

Bowing to pressure from Washington, the federal government agreed to reduce U.S.-based shipments of softwood lumber. It relented, the agreement will end a long-running dispute over Canadian softwood lumber, which accounts for about 36 per cent of the U.S. market. Under the deal, Ottawa will impose a tax on some B.C. lumber exports. Meanwhile, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta will increase the fees charged to forestry companies in order to reduce their shipments by 10 per cent.

POST OFFICE NEEDS BUSINESS

Canada Post officials told a parliamentary committee that it is studying the Crown corporation's future that they are seeking new sources of revenue to help subsidize residential mail services. In its brief, the post office said that many of its traditional customers—including banks, credit companies and utilities—will likely switch to electronic mail, forcing the agency to find new sources of business.

CURBING CLUNKERS

The British Columbia government is trying to work out the details of a new program to buy and scrap old smog-producing cars. The province wants to reduce the number of pre-1980 vehicles—whose emission levels are far higher than new models—on the densely populated Lower Mainland region. As many as 10,000 cars could be eliminated if the program—funded by automakers, dealers and oil companies—runs for its planned five years.

DEBIT-CARD USE SUROGS

Canadians are using so-called debit cards in record numbers. According to The Interac Association of Toronto, consumers used their debit cards, which automatically deduct the amount of a purchase from their bank accounts, 299 million times in 1989—an increase of 111 per cent over the previous year. "All signs point to continued acceptance by non-users," said Interac vice-president James Kearney. "Quite simply, they love the service."

DYLEX SELLING ASSETS

Trucked retailer Dylex Ltd. is selling off several key assets to Canadian clearing banks in an effort to strengthen the company's bleeding balance sheet. The Toronto-based company will sell its responsibility to the Harry Rosen and Bonmart stores and is also surrendering its wholly owned subsidiary, the Montreal division. The company expects to raise about \$40 million, which will be used to help repay its \$296-million debt.

The Nation's Business



Peter C. Newman Defending Canada's biggest bank machine

John Edward Cleghorn, who will preside over his first as newly-appointed director of Canada's biggest bank machine on March 6, is very different from the planned banks that continuously occupy the glossy pages of Canada's most influential corporate chairmanships. He takes nothing for granted.

Unlike most bank chairmen, who believe that it takes only one person, therefore, to change a habit—strongly held in the world again around them—Cleghorn rejects any pretence of being an imperial, all-knowing preserver. He is obsessively interested in the private truths that underlie the social and economic pressures that bedevil his job.

In his first in-depth interview since taking over the bank's top post last January, he talked to me recently about the many issues troubling him and his industry.

Cleghorn admits that the public perception of Canadian banks seems set in concrete, that the banks are too large and too powerful, that they make huge profits and pay excessive taxes, that they shortchange small businesses and charge their customers extravagant service fees, and that they're pushing their way into insurance and oil leasing to exploit already battered bottom lines. Except for the last item, which has to do with persuading Ottawa's regulators to allow the banks to enter one of the few financial service sectors they don't already dominate, Cleghorn categorically rejects all of the other accusations.

"Age, of course, is relative," he told me. "At 56, I'm in the largest Canadian bank, in the past quarter century we've dropped from second to sixth in North America while our world ranking has gone from 12th to 26th." That banks are too large and too powerful may be self-evident in the Canadian context, but Cleghorn contends that globally his bank, with assets of \$184 billion and 10 million customers, is far too small. If Canada's five banks were to pool their assets, they would control only 30 per cent of the country's deposits, less than half the outstanding mortgages, and almost a quarter of the mutual funds. "Under such conditions," he maintains, "Canadian banks are likely to get smaller in relation to foreign entities, and I can foresee a gradual erosion of the ability of our banks to compete. To be effective internationally, you've got to be dominant at home—otherwise, you can't play in this global game."

He points out that the world's largest bank, formed recently through the merger of the Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo, is more than six times the size of the Royal and boasts more assets than the entire Canadian banking industry. Even such smaller trading nations as Holland and Switzerland have larger banking units than Canada.

While Canada's banking sector is highly concentrated—the Big Five banks control 82 per cent of all bank assets—the same banks

control less than half of Canada's total financial sector. "With as many as 10,000 privately owned banks of various sizes, the United States could set up with local monopolies that generated small business and depositors," Cleghorn says. "Canada, with a much greater historical emphasis on order and stability, ended up with a much more competitive banking system—though the advantage is now being lost as U.S. deregulation proceeds and the American system moves in the direction of Canadian-style national banking."

Cleghorn believes there has to be more, not less consolidation in financial services. He helped back in the 1950s and the last merger wave of Canadian banks (with the Imperial and Commerce combining, as well as the Toronto and Dominion) and thinks it should happen again. "There certainly have to be some more mergers of financial services," he insists.

Change is inevitable, but Canadian bank profits are not exorbitant when compared to those of the big U.S. banks—the Royal made a net income of \$1.2 billion last year on assets of \$184 billion. He says the U.S. banks charge a much higher spread—the difference in interest rates between deposits and loans—than fattening their bottom lines. "If people feel that they're being gouged in terms of the fees we charge," he says, "then we haven't done a good enough job explaining the fact that banking fees are one of the very few areas where Canadian consumers get a better deal than Americans." It's a significant difference because banks have really become more like than usual—bank. Some 36 per cent of the Royal's revenues come from various business and consumer service fees.

Cleghorn's big push in Ottawa this year will be to seek approval to allow the banks to sell their insurance products in their branches. "Let the customers decide who they want to buy insurance from," he says. "We're permitted to buy insurance companies, but the efficiency comes from using the branches to sell policies." The Royal already collects \$184 million in premiums from its insurance subsidiaries—Canadian Life Insurance Company—and that was before the merger, due to end next month, of Western Canadian Life Insurance Co.

Cleghorn feels disappointed with bank critics, including a few who, he says, that the banks aren't doing enough to help small business, that he acknowledges that. "Banks must explain a lot better what they're doing for small and medium-sized businesses and individuals. In fact, we've just announced a \$100-million lending fund especially for small business, and we're experimenting with different techniques to provide faster turnaround time for loans or equity applications."

Persuading Canadians that the banks are first-class citizens will take some doing. The many monopolies are strongly held and widely believed, and John Cleghorn is determined to alter these perceptions and restore the banks' unimpaired credibility. He may just be the man to do it.



When he was in diapers
I wanted a decent job.
Now he wears a goalie mask
while I run a department,
balance a budget
and travel twice a week.
I wanted to watch him grow up
But he didn't wait.

Of course I'll find time

to think about our investments
As soon as I find time to think



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22 Minutes For

High Schticking

Satire is a national sport, and Mary Walsh has a wicked slapshot

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

It is a slow news week. While politicians bicker over the dissolving of Quebec, the big story is the weather, a cold snap that has the country frozen in a groove of national unity from sea to shivering sea. And so the first night of February, during the most bleak week of the winter, Mary Walsh is preparing to turn the weather into hard news—what evening? It is close to midnight as *Madras* The CBC crew from *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* is racing late overtime. Clad in a purple windsuit, Walsh sits on the ledge of a hotel's outdoor pool, her legs dangling in the water. She is in character, as the feisty outspokesman Mary Delvauxy, and she looks like a teller's nightmare: violet eyeshadow, orange lipstick, big glasses, gold-plated jewelry and a bathing cap luscious with flowers. The director calls for quiet. Walsh asks for a moment to wipe the fog off her glasses, using the skirt of her old-fashioned windsuit. Finally, the camera rolls.

"It's February in the frozen north," she says, laughing into the water, "and everybody and their dog's got faces no longer the length of a wet Sausage in Red Deer." While the camera follows her on a dilly, Walsh performs a talking breastedore, her voice bouncing around the pool. By the time she reaches the shallow end, her water-soaked haircut has started from February depression to financial hysteria. "We've got all our credit cards nailed out on bail—40 \$5000 speedobucks on MasterCard and Visa alone," she begins, now staring into the camera, inches from the lens. "What? How much is that said? Or is \$5.5 billion so high a number that, like Quebec, it is not divisible?" Spitting out the figures, she shifts into high rant

mode—"Nineteen per cent interest on every one of those \$5 billion buxles. The bankers are delicious! They're dancing a waltz carrying down at the Bay of Biscay all the way back to the south with their 1.25-billion-dollar profit!"

Mary Walsh means business. As the woman who dressed up *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and its most visible star, the 45-year-old performer from St. John's, Nfld., is the lady goddess of Canadian political satire. And in a country razzing out of serious observations, political satire has become Canada's unofficial opposition. People cannot seem to get enough of it. On Monday nights at 9 p.m., an average of 12 million viewers tune in to *22 Minutes*—a stark contrast that often seems laughier ratings than the CBC's real news, *The*

National, as heard later. The network's *Real Canadian Air Force* does even better on Friday nights, drawing an average 1.5 million viewers with its anti-political caricatures (page 22). Double exposure of hers yet another popular forum for lampooning politicians, on *CBC Radio* (page 50). Satire is the great red sign of life at the aging CBC. And *22 Minutes*—which swept the comedy categories in last season's Gemini Awards (winning best series, writing and performance)—is on the cutting edge. Although *Air Force* gets better ratings, it has been building an audience on CBC Radio for 22 years and employs a much broader style. While *Air Force* does baroque impersonations of politicians, *22 Minutes* delivers sharper editorialism through an idiosyncratically drawn repertoire of original characters. Like the CBC's *This Hour Has Seven Days*—the controversial 1990s show that inspired its title—it mixes humor with trenchant political commentary.

Coverly, of course, is a national sport, with a list of all-



Out of costume: ex-Mary Delvauxy (above left) a courage unbroken on prime-time TV

star players that includes Jim Carrey, Miley Cyrus, Dan Aykroyd, Leslie Mann, the *Scrubs* gang and the Kells in the Hall. What seems to give Canadians the edge is that they are on the edge—a nation of observers who watch America through the one-way mirror of the 40th parallel. Comedy requires a passion for detached observation. And as part of the country's rare detachment, that island of Newfoundland—where the entire cast of *22 Minutes* rolls in—has become a place where the world is seen through the one-way mirror of the 40th parallel.

All four are gifted writers-performers: Greg Thorne, 33, a versatile physical comedian, has also done dramatic acting (*The Boys of St. Vincent*) and writing award plays; Rick Mercer, 36, and Cathy Jones, 30, have toured nationally with popular solo stage shows that they wrote and produced; Jones, a superb character comedian, also spent 30 years performing with Walsh in Newfoundland's Coda troupe.

COVER

Rocky Wink, her play based on interviews with 500 players, was in 1993, at the Grand Theatre in London, that she was glowing reviews for her passionate performance as Irene, the tragic lover of Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. And she is going to play Lady Macbeth "Mary's wife," says 22 Minutes creative producer Gerald Luan. "When you watch her live, she is doing it with her eyes. You feel anything is possible. And as with all great comedians, there is a brilliant tragedy there."

In Walsh's past, the comedy and tragedy have been inextricably mixed. Her life is a story of strong women and strong drinks, and a series of rough roads that all lead back to the Rock. Walsh still spends summers in her birthplace of St. John's, where she owns a 500-year-old house. But during the TV season, she lives on a tree-lined street in Midtown, in a modest pink stone house

'When you watch her, you feel anything is possible'

including its seven-year run as CBC TV. Together, the 22 Minutes cast achieves a remarkable four-part comic baguette. But it is Walsh who makes the most formidable impression, both on and off the show.

When the producers of the *Genes* needed someone to inject some sparkle into their revamped series show last month, they hired Walsh to host it—giving her the final job of emceeding an annual for Canadian film with style and satire. And when PEN Canada, an organization that defends jailed and tortured writers, wanted to blow the cobwebs out of its stuffy meeting, it hired Walsh to co-host a gala benefit in Toronto last year. PEN got more than it bargained for. Appearing in Mary Delahanty in slippers and a housecoat, Walsh absorbed the usual PEN solemnity and unleashed a comic diatribe against a leading neoconservative author "Speaking of tarting writers," she said, "how about David Foster? He makes Barbara Ehrenreich look like Dorothy Dornier's Crying From an Ignorant." She added that "his poor mother [Dorothy's Barbara Ehrenreich] must be spinning in her grave." The comment triggered a night-long protest against PEN that raged through the month for weeks. But even Linda Faye, Fosters' sister, who organized the protest, acknowledges Walsh's instincts. "I admire her," she says. "She's a really talented and intelligent woman. My quarrel was not with her but with PEN for not distancing themselves from her meanness. Mary Walsh can say whatever she wants, but there's a consent and a place for it."

Subverting context, however, is what Walsh is all about. On *22 Minutes*, she keeps breaking things, defying the notion that "you can't do that on television." With a coarseness unrivaled on prime-time TV, she shoves her arse into the air and spouts her unvarnished mad through a gallery of outrageous characters—personalities so strong it seems they could burst through the screen at any moment. The best known is Mary Delahanty, the over-the-top, over-the-top woman who does to what everyone is thinking. Others include snarling Connie Moore, the dough-busting lack who snorts about "the Yukon" from behind her copy of *USA Today*; the swaggering Daisy Dora, a macho blowhard whose chest hair has gone to her head; and the bawdier Genes Hellmuths, a bitchy villain who teaches pre-teenage Cassie Pugh as a "pawfect learner" persona.

But Walsh is not just a subvert. She is an exceptional writer, director and dramatic actor. She has directed more than a dozen plays, often co-writing them with the actors. In 1988, Toronto's Factory Theatre produced



With one paw and three on her mouth, Walsh is a powerful woman.



Walsh with 22 Minutes colleagues Thorne, Jones and Mercer eating eggs.

wrote for her by the show's local producer, Sucker Street Films. After recently ending a 13-year relationship with a performance artist Ray Cas, Walsh lives alone with her adopted sugar-coated dog, Jones, and a blue merle cat named Tron.

Sitting with a mug of coffee in her living-room, Walsh is dressed in fuzzy slippers and a long sweater-dress over a white negligee—an outfit that would not look out of place in Mary Delahanty. But unlike Mary, she wears no makeup. Walsh does not really look like any of her characters. She has a hotchpotch face with intelligent eyes and a winsome warmth. The actor was once turned down for a movie role because she looked too "quirky," she recalls. "I kind of liked that. All my features are scarred in the middle of my face. That's what I saw when I look in the mirror. I look like years and years of misadventure and misadventure."

Walsh in the seventh of eight children (three sisters and four brothers) in Lew and Mary Walsh. Her father spent most of his life at sea, working in ship's boiler rooms. "Then he retired and went to bed for 13 years," says Walsh. "Dad [read it loud and drunk] said, an everybody mother family did." Her mother, who "controlled the house so tightly she should have been running IBM," came from a family of doctors—Walsh's maternal grandfather helped build the Empire State Building. "There was a huge smile in the family," recalls Walsh. "About what was the most ironic period, to go to sea or to be a brewer?"

Walsh did not grow up with her parents. At eight months, she was sent to live with relatives next door and never moved back—apparently because she had pneumonia and her parents' house was too hot. "That's what they always said," she laughs. "Some pediatric explanation. It was odd, because my room and bed lived down door and I was 13 and then they moved in the country." Her parents are now deceased, and Walsh never did get to the bottom of why they gave her away. "Now, I feel it was really funny," she says, "but it didn't feel anything but tragic until a few years ago." Then she adds with a grin: "Of course, that in the past of said that has made me the, oh, perfect fit I am today."

The product of a marriage, Walsh was raised by her father's sister, Aunt Mae, who lived with her stroke-afflicted brother, Jack, and their stepmother, Josephine. "Dad [Jack] used to drink until he fell asleep, then he'd wake up and drink again," she recalls. "Dad would just drink and never go to sleep, which was heartbreaking for everyone." Having a sense of humor was essential. "It was

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"Only a young person would ever decide to create a horrible scene like this—Oh, yeah, this will be good. It plays with this concept."

They were still drunk. At the end of a party one night, Walsh tackled a friend, writer Roy Gay, who was trying to leave at 2 a.m., and broke his leg. "We picked him up and he just fell down again," she recalls. "We thought he was just really, really drunk. But when he came to in the morning, he had the fractures." Andy Jones, who was Walsh's live-in companion for eight years, says that "we were all drinking constantly. When I look back on those days, it seems our lives were bracketed by alcohol."

Like and at become a blur Jones would always be borrowing their furniture for stag parties. "Finally," he recalls, "Mary got her foot down and said we got to keep our own stuff in our own house. But then she was directing a show, and I came home to find the fridge and stove gone. They were cooking."

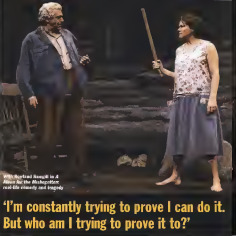
After its acclaimed one-year run on CBC TV, *Codomo* broke up in 1992. Then, Walsh butchered her idea for a cross-gender show and found support from comedian producer Michael Douvan of *Silver Star* films in Halifax.

She auditioned the cast, including Andy Jones to be a part of it, but he declined, somewhat perversely. "I was like any personal friend at the time," says Jones, now acting and writing at Toronto. "Do I regret it? Sometimes, then I regret everything—lasts the way I am." Cady Jones, meanwhile, was shocked when she was invited to join the show, because she has so little interest in politics. "She says I'm uniquely unfamiliar with those things," she suggests. "I always get a crash like this guys." As for Mercer and Thorpe, Walsh had followed their career several years. Mercer remembers their first encounter, at St. John's community hall where she was directing a show. "I put her down in a chair, and all of the brothers, and that's how I met Mary. She was on top of her friend, leaning the building down."

After coming up with the idea for *28 Minutes*, Walsh had to watch it take shape from the rehearsal—she required back surgery when it debuted in 1993. And the show did not turn out quite as she had imagined. "The basic premise," she says, "is that my original conception didn't have any live-aired producers making all the decisions. I'm happy with the show, but it's a boy's club," Jones agrees, as it is believed that the cast as well as in charge. "It's healthy," she says. "That's what killed *Codomo*—all the power we had."

As *Codomo* became silent, Walsh and Jones are like artists. Although they perform together with seamless timing, the relationship has frayed over the years. According to Walsh, "we feel different about everything." Now at least, they have solvency in common. Walsh cut completely out Jones ago. Jones, who quit last year, is a practicing Buddhist, a vegetarian and the mother of a five-month-old girl—whose live-in-landlord is the only addition that plays havoc with the show's schedule.

Each Monday, the cast members come in with stress and they up



With boyfriend Joseph in 4 Walsh for the *Magpie* real-life comedy and happily

"I'm constantly trying to prove I can do it. But who am I trying to prove it to?"

the news. "Rick and Greg will show up with 25 or 30 shirts," says Jones. "And I'll come in with two or three." Editorial producer Geoff D'Amico, a 10-year veteran of CBC TV news, claps his eyes for them. "It's highly competitive," says Walsh. "There's only so much news." As stories unfold, people put their files on the footage. "Sometimes it's just a question of getting into work early," says Mercer. "The biggest nightmare is that nothing's happening. Some week, it's all suicide bombings and twisted blood, things you don't want to see."

There is a cultural battle in the cast. Walsh and Mercer do the hard-core political satire. Jones and Thorpe do a softer, warmer style of comedy. As the back-of-camera Gerald Jones reviews the players. Calling himself "the snake handler," he tries to achieve some every among the performers and prevent anything that would not fly with the "snobs" at Silver Star and the CBC. Says Jones, 42, who has worked with Walsh and Jones for a decade, "Mary comes in with all your blabbing. When she's up for a fight, she goes full on. Every time Mary is not involved with a decision, she feels she's losing."

It is Thursday morning—the day before *28 Minutes* is taped to be a studio audience. In the show's makeshift production of them, located in a warehouse of ABCO trailers behind the CBC building in Halifax, Jones scans a wall of index cards representing stories for the show. "Our killer park keeps our feet on the ground," he says. "There's no showbiz planning around here." The show, he adds, is a bargain at less than \$100,000 a episode. "We are theatre people," he says. "We do everything last. It's a stocky-a work job with one day to go for your laundry."

Thursday afternoon. On a residential sidewalk, the crew takes Jones and Walsh to Fred and Edith's, one old ladies' gossiping joint

the French from France—their seven sisters and twelve sons and twelve-legged farmers. It is barely cold. Under their shaggy, the women wear thermal. They also wear leather boots beautifully, but the other have been doing it in various forms for two decades. They are natural-born ladies. "We've been playing old ladies from the beginning," says Walsh, wearing up to a car between them. Jones concurs. "We were old ladies when we were 16."

Thursday night, Walsh prepares to do Mary Delahanty at the podium. For Mary, she wants to do during her own makeup and while doing drag-like costumes. It helps her get into character. She slithers on the foundation, scrubbing it into her face with a vengeance. "This is how my mother got on her makeup," she explains. Then with scary efficiency, she paints on the eyeliner, the rouge and the vintage lipstick. Walsh calls her wearing makeup on the second take. But the director wants another car. Ten takes later, she finally gets out of the podium at 1:15 a.m.

Friday night, 7 p.m. The cast sits down at the *28 Minutes* news desk and runs through the show. At 8 p.m. it does it again for a



Walsh as Queen Elizabeth with Greg Mercer's Margaret Thatcher in *Confrontation* with Marjorie Sanders (left) and as Greta Garbo (right) personally on stage. It seems they could last through the screen

audience, 100 fans packed into Newfound's cramped studio. The show starts late. The audience has been kept waiting too long in the foyer and severely touched the free wine. Always a bad sign. The crowd appears on television, but at relative terms the cast outsiders it as old age. There are more hats than usual. While Jones and Mercer do their bits, Walsh and Thorpe pump their backs and forth, like kids in class. The show ends with the whole cast playing the Queen's Game—four old Newfoundland women in identical tapes and pined shirts. As a result, the Queens become the house.

Sunday morning. At home, Walsh is mulling over the previous night. "Robert went to the Queen's game," she says. "I wrote the first Queens story. I knew they'd explode. But four stupid guys from Newfoundland with one of them picking their nose, I feel I'm asking my bright light for a news of postage. I don't mean to be snobbish about comedy, but there are laugh because that aren't being pushed when you're joking your nose. And with some of those buttons, you get a deeper laugh, a kind of—Oh, yes! That's perfectly funny!" As *Magpie* goes on it finally, she says she is also sick of Mary

Delahanty. "I wouldn't mind being as Mary's fascist. And I'm sick of Delahanty and I'm sick of Corbin. I'm sick of all my characters really." A mid-air warning. Not a Mary rant, as Delahanty said, "Mary Walsh doesn't have much more to say," she insists. "There is nothing new about the news. It's the same news this February as last February. And I feel the same way about it. I'm angered that a rich country like Canada is punishing the poor for local problems we may or may not have." As the cast pulls up news, it is easy to see why Walsh gets tired to give speeches—at such events as the 1994 United Nations Global Conference on Development in New York City or D.H.

Now, about turning David Fraser. "I was really shocked when I heard about the big attack," she says, explaining that the joke was intended to joke his both at PBS's security and Fraser's politics. "I'm not friends with David Fraser," she warns. "It's always got that half-silly as his face, as if he's just not something. He gives me the jumps." His sister, Linda Fraser, still thinks that Mary should have covered Walsh. "When they start making jokes about strap-up [left wing columnist] Rick Salda by his articles," she told

Melrose, "let's see how many people laugh then." Who knows? Walsh might be one of them. In defining her own speech in *The Globe and Mail*, Salda had the sense to describe Mary Delahanty as "a dick." Says Walsh, "I thought, 'Gee wha, don't let the left take up my cause for me.'"

Walsh cannot seem to resist criticizing everything into question, including herself. She wonders why she works so hard, often making herself sick—she spent last weekend working on a movie script with Andy Jones, who went from Toronto. "I'm constantly trying to prove I can do it. But who is it that I'm trying to prove it to?" she asks. "I try to go in bed for 12 hours like the old man. I'm a dick. Read the newspaper. For in a better, better world, I'm a healthy laugh. 'Maybe I just need a new character.'"

The next day, when told of Walsh's dispute, Lana changes it off with a laugh. "It sounds like you're a classic postpartum show conversation."

One week later, Walsh has found a new character, fashion editor Marjorie Sanders. Dressed in a frumpy outfit she calls the "Interpreted by Thorpe," she tries to defend her wardrobe until finally, in exasperation, she rips off her clothes. Suddenly she is standing there in a catfish leotard, lyrics tap with no hat, her droopy midriff spilling over her hips.

"What are my lesbian options?" she pleads, as the audience shouts hysterically. "You've got to be a lesbian with a chronic self-doubt. You've got to have the body fat of a car antenna. I saw a 42-year-old looking awful and there's not anything out there for me to wear!" Then, declaring that "America's only real life left open to us—don't try and stop me," she covers up with a housecoat, an apron and harness and mutters into, well, an old bag.

A week ago, Walsh had nothing to go. In one sketch, she has gone further than ever before. Flawless first, she has delivered a short-lived scene on the tyranny of fashion. She has accused through three characters—and a lifetime of confession, rebellion and self acceptance—in three minutes flat.

You can't do as television? Mary Walsh just did it.

On a February night in a CBC studio in Toronto, Lucien Bouchard is about to lose his head. Some 300 people break into applause as the Royal Canadian Air Force Chorus enters and whistles into the studio set. The weapons, complete with rubber bullets, also in possession by RCMP cost member Don Ferguson, dressed as Col. Stacey in a bronze monospace suit, he adorns every set that the Quebec premier has been chosen. Target of the Week for two reasons: declaring that Canada is desirable but Quebec is not, and co-opting a Canadian word.

Another mood of political (constitutional) angst. A segment leads the camera with Canadian celebrities—B.C. actress, Arctic cat, Prince Edward Island sheep, Ontario road salt ad, it is a royal of Jacques Parizeau, a Mr. Patate Head—then sets it in a large picture of the Quebec premier. The face is lit, the colors yell "FIRE!" and there is a resounding boom as a hail of foam blows away Bouchard's head. "What do you know?" says a stage-faked Stacey. "Looks like Lucien Bouchard is divisible." The studio audience loves it.

Judging by the show's ratings, so do a lot of Canadians. Now in its third season, the half-hour *Royal Canadian Air Force* is among the network's top five shows, drawing up to 1.6 million viewers and consistently ranking among the top 20 overall in Canada.

The quartet of Ferguson, John Morgan, Luca Guy and Roger Abbott has been home in comical talents on CBC Radio for 22 years—returning to its Sunday afternoon half-hour spot in April after a four-month hiatus. But when *Air Force* made the switch to television in 1993, with a show that is entirely distinct from the national radio version, it was successful to a degree that seems to surprise even the four comers.

Written by Morgan and two Torontonians who have been with the *Air Force* for 19 years, Gord McEwan and Rick Olsen, the TV show takes aim at politicians, celebrities and newsmakers. Call it The National Went, a fiction where viewers get to see their frustration about the state of the country expressed, exaggerated and eased by laughter. Says Ferguson, who produces the show with Abbott: "It has been said before, but it's still true: in the States, if people don't like their leaders they shoot them. In Canada, we make fun of them."

Bouchard—where Ferguson impersonates wearing a dark suit and who looks like two dead conspirators across his brow—is one in a long

The Air Force Is Flying High

The 22-year-old act is hotter than ever



Say (left), Morgan, Ferguson, Abbott: the show is a 'National Veal' for viewers' frustration about the country

series of politicians regularly held up to ridicule. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (Abbott) turns up frequently as comical impostors. Sheila Copps (Guy), another favorite, recently tried out for the freely, somewhat allowing lead role in a new CBC drama called *ShirleyAnn Woman*. And Ferguson, wearing spectacles and black tights, once impersonated the leader of the Reform party as "Baronmanning, the Caped Crusader." "There is more silliness than subtlety in any of the skits, and occasionally cast members are taken to task by viewers accusing them of bad taste. 'Some people get upset whenever we do the Pope or the Queen,' says Morgan. "But the tone of the letters is usually respectful, as in 'We always enjoy the show, but did you know to do that skit?'"

Many of the people mocked on the show have turned up later as unexpected guests in the New Year's Eve *Air Force* special. Indeed

Conservative Leader Jean Charest served coffee and doughnuts to the cast and, explained in full voice, how he and Preston Manning might arrange their meeting in a brownie the "Coke-and-Popcorn Party." And last week, Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps turned up at the same doughnut shop in full ceremonial glory. When Ferguson's character tried to speak to her, she screamed at him to leave her alone—only to apologize later and explain that she had mistaken him for Preston Manning.

The *Air Force* writers see that more than two decades of recording their radio shows before audiences across the country have taught them what tickles the Canadian funny bone. "People don't think before they laugh, they just laugh," says Ferguson. "So audiences teach you what works or doesn't, you just have to learn to listen." A former Montrealer who lives in Toronto with his wife and three children, Ferguson joined the comedy group in 1979 (he did Guy and Abbott), when it was known as The Just Society. It had been founded earlier that year by Morgan and actor-writer Martin Brodeur. By 2003, they had renamed themselves the Royal Canadian Air Force and landed a steady gig on CBC Radio. That year, the troupe returned to the stage, this time on Broadway, who popularized such characters as Sgt. Worsley and Bobby Collier before moving in 1988, Abbott, also a former Montrealer, attributes *Air Force*'s longevity to a commitment to "laughing, not attitude. Basically we talk about the same sort of topics that you'd talk about at the bar just with wit and wit."

Air Force seems to understand Ferguson's disgust with the carriage of an businessman and politics alike. "In order to reach a broad audience, you've got to go more mainstream—you can't do Black Mass skits," says Ferguson. "Their approach has earned them a loyal following, including many children and teenagers who write in to the show. High school teachers often request skits in it as a diversion from the classroom of politics." "You hit wrong to say he didn't know who Preston Manning was and he started wailing," says Abbott, "and he followed his career." While playing on the average person's sympathy about the powerful, *Air Force* also lampoons the comedy man. "Miles from Canada" (Morgan) is no exception that, in one sketch, Bouchard takes him as one of the reasons Canada has been so successful.

Having performed together most of their adult lives, the four comers have developed an increasingly creative creative chemistry. Guy, who lives with his partner of seven years, has two teenage boys and his 21-year-old son, says the group is close, but doesn't socialize much outside work. "We're working so much that we've gotten selfish about our family time."

Until December, they were still wearing and performing a separate weekly radio show, which regularly attracted about a half a million listeners. "We know," says Morgan. Putting it all on hiatus until April 27 means they won't do radio again until after the last live TV taping. By then, they will be back on their cross-country performance schedule, taping their shows in cities across Canada. Many of them are staged as fund-raisers, with most of the proceeds going to charity.

But the writers still rely on the connection their appearances give them with their fans. Last week's skit—"It's like a party," says Morgan. The 65-year-old native of Whitecourt, a son-in-law with a grown son and daughter, makes campy and a sense of mischief. While clearly enjoying the television show's success, he seems to harbor for the imaginative freedom of radio. "If you want 150 Highland Fiddlers coming up over the hill, well, it's radio, that's no

Radio's double trouble

Dressed in purple from head to toe, Lucien Bouchard is at the microphone, saying: "oupsing her fingers and making several shots of a song written by the author called *Kiss Your Penis*... *Gosh!*" "No one writes," Guy warbles in a reedy voice. "No pot of gold now!" Bouchard says to Guy: "Bouchard is in the backroom... (Goes just off-camera on set.) Finally, the city is completed by the sublimation of the bearded equine at the Vancouver studio. Then, Bob Robertson, Collier's partner on the half-hour CBC Radio comedy show *Double Exposure*, steps to the mic. Instantly, he transforms himself into Robert Prime Minister Manning. "I call him, the Prime Minister, says, 'Bouchard, you go on to it now.' 'In the head of Robert, such I had from the year in the West, where the primes are worse! On account of defaming our Prime Minister as dead! But the truth is, I don't mean it.'"

This month, Collier and Robertson celebrate nine years of potting fun at Canada's politicians for an audience currently numbering 400,000, making it CBC Radio's eighth most popular show. The two are happy to expand to explain the popularity of potting in Canada. Calling it the "great Canadian question," Collier, 37, agrees that it is, at least in part, the country's cultural ties to

Britain, where dry, satirical wit is deemed a national treasure. (The *Double Exposure* notes that, thanks to the parliamentary system, Canadian politicians are more often in the public eye than, say, their U.S. counterparts and therefore make good targets. As well, he says, "Canadians never take themselves seriously. We know we are just small guys, and we can laugh at ourselves.")

The *Double Exposure* duo—who have been a couple off the air for eight years and are finally planning to move in together—are by no means more political. Most of the material for the Saturday morning show comes from the political machinations of the week. And the journalists, Collier and Robertson are no strangers to deadline pressures before the show is taped, they sit down in their cramped CBC office (and spend the material for the next day when the pickups are done, it is not unusual for them to be staggering home at midnight. "If there wasn't any comedy," says Robertson, "it wouldn't be showbiz." Taping begins around noon on Friday and lasts up to three hours.

Despite their perhaps too close relationship, Collier and Robertson believe that the writing has retained a consistent bite over the years. Still, as legal listeners know, the team rarely goes for the popular when Lucien Bouchard isn't a king. In one episode not to play his personal grudge for laughs. In one year, the show has received only one call from a lawyer—in the first year, when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was the target for his sensitivity to the media.

Collier and Robertson are looking forward to the show's 10-year anniversary. Beyond that, says Collier: "Who knows? I see another several years away. We still call it. Thousands of people out there say they're addicted to the show." Eventually, like the Royal Canadian Air Force, they could move to television. For the past two years, the two have done several sketches on the new show. "That I've always said we won't be on the air as long as *Air Force*," adds Collier. "That's such a first, and I'm not sure we have that in us." One thing seems likely, however: *Double Exposure* will outlive the CBC, at least in its present form.

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COVER

problem," he says. "In TV, the first guess that comes from wardrobe, 'Well, what kind of tartan should they be wearing?' You think, 'Oh, forget it.'" But, he adds, television offers its own advantages. "It's like a big electronic toy box that we're learning how to use more and more." Technological wizardry allows them to perform a skit like the one in which he and Abbott, dressed as red-bellied gophers, appear to be a two-man tag team battling down a chute (the rider at back starts making raucous overtures to the one in front).

The TV show's three writers produce a new script each weekend. It is rewritten constantly during meetings and rehearsals. When the show is performed twice in front of an audience in Toronto on Thursday evening, sometimes the writers and cast amend their jokes or add new material in the hour between the two tapings. When Lisa Marie Friesley and Michael Jackson split, for instance, the writers squeezed a joke into the second taping. The better take of each skit makes it into the Friday broadcast.

The live show is also an impressive logistical exercise. While sets frequently have to be built between Tuesday and Thursday, and props—such as a large chicken leg that Morgan recently needed for a monologue—procure it at the last minute. There are makeshift dressing rooms behind the stage because the actors do not have enough time to get down the hall for costume and makeup changes between skits.

Clothes, props and a semi-hardening action with hosts displaying about 15 different wigs are crisscrossed together. Gay finds the frequent wardrobe changes—an irony in sex per show—never tiring. "Sometimes I have to take off every article of clothing," she explains. "One night, I had to get out of Sherie Crippen's black pantyhose and into Martha Stewart's light ones to match her pastel outfit. Martha would never wear dark hose with light clothes." Gay was doing a scene called "Martha Stewart Highway News," in which the ubiquitous author, TV host and domestic paragon purports to resolve several global crises, including famine and the Bosnian conflict, with "a few simple items hanging around the house."

Each show, according to producers Ferguson and Abbott, costs "more than \$100,000 and considerably less than \$800,000." George Anthony, CBC creative head of TV arts, music, science and variety, says that, comparatively speaking, "the show is a bargain." The producers seem frustrated by the show's workings, and cast members kibitz with them while aware security is being shifted. Even stage manager Pat McDonald goes into the act. Informally dressed and wearing a headset, McDonald addresses the audience while directing people and props on the floor. "OK," he tells the audience in a measured, weary monotone, "get ready to laugh." They do laugh—and, every week, millions of Canadians join in. □

From The Smallest Towns To The Biggest Cities



For the love of sport

Special Olympians compete in Calgary

The show band struck up a lively tune as the teams came filing in to the Calgary Corral from both sides of the stage—700 athletes and coaches from across Canada, waving to a cheering crowd. They were in Calgary last week for the 1996 Canadian Special Olympics Winter Games, the national championship—held every four years for athletes with mental disabilities. At the head of the Nova Scotia delegation was a young girl, Martin Fudge, a 20-year-old snowboarder from Sherburne, N.S., who has been involved in Special Olympics sports for eight years. He said it was a special honor to be chosen flag bearer in Calgary. "I'm hoping to get a medal," Fudge added. "But if not, most important of all, I'm going to try to do my best—to please Nova Scotia, to please myself."

The games are indeed special, a kind of pure sporting competition. Susan Twineley, the executive director of the Calgary Games Association, said they are about "the sheer joy of being able to participate." The notion is best captured in the athletes' oath, recited during the opening ceremonies on last week. "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." And it is reflected in the overwhelming response of volunteers—1,200 in all, and just two paid staff in the Calgary Games association. Athletes at the starting lines cheer with one another. Local social events and deeper snow friendships are especially important parts of the experience.

This year's Games were held at several venues in Calgary and at the Nordic Centre in Canmore, 100 km to the west. They featured six sports: speed and figure skating, Alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding and floor hockey. "You are talking about persons who go through every day of life with mental disabilities," says Twineley. "So to get to the point where they're naturally qualified athletes is a remarkable achievement in itself. And the level of their competitive and athletic skills is really amazing."

The Calgary Games are one part of the qualifying process for the World Winter Games in Toronto and Collingwood, Ont., in February, 1997. They will be the first world's held in Canada, even though the movement itself grew out of work done by a Canadian. In the early 1960s, Frank Hayden was a research associate at the University of Toronto.

Chasing in 1968. Since then, the movement has expanded to more than 140 countries. In Canada alone, some 200,000 athletes are involved in local programs year-round.

In Special Olympics, the rules are designed to encourage participation. In floor hockey, for example, coaches must implement a full line change every three minutes, and ensure that all the players get equal time. Most of the sporting events at the Games begin with a so-called dividing process, based on three disability categories according to their ability—as well as their age and gender. And medals are awarded at each ability level. "Special Olympics is competitive and just as strenuous," says Hayden. "But people at all levels have an opportunity to do it."

Patrick Denno, a 32-year-old Alpine skier from Edmonton, is hoping to advance to the World Games next winter. At the provincial games last year, she won three gold medals, and she was clearly aiming to repeat her success. "That was really really well," Denno said after the first morning of racing. "I'm just crossing my fingers—I would be nice to take home a medal this morning." That day, she won bronze in the slalom over the first two days, sliding down the piste and carving her turns, to capture gold medals in the ladies' giant slalom and super-giant slalom events.

Lots of work is involved in the Special Olympics program. Sherburne's Fudge stepped up his training schedule last September when he found out he had been chosen for the national slalom with his neighbor, Ronald Colpa II. The duo began dry-land training—sitting alone at their snowboard feet attached to the bottoms of their snowboards. And when snow finally fell, they taped each other every day—so neither twice a day—racing the 100m, 200m and 400m courses. All that training produced results: a gold and a silver for Colpa and a gold, a silver and a bronze for Fudge.

Colpa insisted that while the competition was stiff at the Winter Games, that "nobody does not bother me at all." Explained Colpa: "I don't think about it when I go up to the starting line and I don't think about it at the finish line, either. I just do what I want to do and if it pays off, good." Granted, it is not the kind of payoff that children's professional sports does, with its big contracts and endorsement deals. But the reward for Special Olympians is always there—at the very least, there is the beauty of the attempt.

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Snowboarder Fudge: "I'm going to try to do my best."

Colpa

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A master sinks Deep Blue

"I remain a cautious optimist in the progress of the human brain," Garry Kasparov told reporters during a historic chess match last week. "I still believe that there are some horizons it will be very difficult for a computer to cross." Even so, the world chess champion was clearly caught off guard at times by the tough computer he faced in Philadelphia—an IBM RS/6000 SP supercomputer called Deep Blue. After six games over eight days, the match ended in a resounding victory for Kasparov, who won three games to the computer's single win. There were two ties. Deep Blue scored a 50.0 per cent, and not that was glacially unfathomable to the psychological introduction that Kasparov also depicts against his main opponents. Moreover, the computer's ability to remember more than 100 million moves a second meant that the human grand master could not rely during play—or risk the smallest mistake. "I'm exhausted—I'm dead," Kasparov told reporters after the fourth game ended in a hard fought draw. Added Marry Campbell, a Canadian member of the IBM team, following Game 6: "The computer played exceptionally well, but Kasparov played well, too—and proved an effective defence."



Kasparov playing Big Blue: glacially unfathomable to human introduction

Kasparov struck back with a strong victory—and did so again on Saturday by beating Deep Blue's 13 moves.

With most of the computing hardware housed at an IBM facility in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., members of the design team took turns moving the pieces in response to Deep Blue's instructions. During several games, the person opposite Kasparov was the Edmonton-born Campbell, a computer science student at the University of Alberta. Later, in a dramatic student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Campbell helped a computer

'It plays like Bobby Fischer—clear and direct'

was named Frank Heuer. This device is a chess-playing chip developed by Deep Blue. In 1995, Heuer and Campbell joined IBM, where their project evolved into Deep Blue. Though Deep Blue is designed to play chess, IBM officials say that the computing skills involved could be applied eventually to complex problems ranging from drug design to traffic and crop scheduling at busy airports.

Along with Campbell and Newton, a third Canadian-based computer expert played a background role in the Kasparov-Deep Blue match: Troy Markland, a computer chess player who teaches at the University of Alberta, was instrumental in winning Campbell's interest. And Markland is president of the International Computer Chess Association, which helped to win agreement

for the match with Kasparov and IBM. Deep Blue's impressive performance did not surprise him. Already said Markland, desktop computers equipped with chess programs can defeat most of the world's chess players. "It is only the world's 30 or so most gifted players who can still compete against computers," said Markland. "Give a amateur five or 10 years, and computers will be able to beat any human being."

Does that mean that computers are approaching the point where they can match the human intellect? Probably not. Experts point out that chess playing is an ideal exercise for computers, because it addresses a specific number of physical objects governed by simple, clearly defined rules. And despite Deep Blue's brilliant performance, computers and human minds function in very different ways. "Computers play chess by quickly listing everything very minutely," says Markland. "The human mind can't do that—but it can look at complex situations and quickly generate to the mindless. Humans are terrific problem-solvers." Human chess players, while Campbell, possess a "sense" sort of judgment quality at intuition that enables them to look at the board and recognize good, bad or weak positions. Computers can't do that. "Which means that for the foreseeable future, at least, the human mind is likely to remain its superiority in most things—perhaps even chess."

MARK NICKOLAS

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A new drug targets—and kills—leukemia

Given the excitement of a family vacation in California, four-year-old Ashford Slewley's fatigue and loss of appetite did not seem unusual. "The little was playing hard," says his mother, Tina Slewley. "They don't eat much when they're on the hot sun." But on the long drive north to their home in Richmond, B.C., in April, 1994, Slewley and her husband, Jay, noticed worrisome new symptoms in their son: swollen glands, headaches and small dark bruises on his body. Alarmed, the family stopped at a hospital in Eugene, Ore.—where the boy was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common childhood cancer. Rushed by jet to British Columbia's Children's Hospital in Vancouver, Ashford was placed on radiation and chemotherapy. "If everything goes smoothly," says Tina, "he should stay in his home in July." And the prognosis is hopeful: the treatment doctors are administering in Ashford eliminates the disease in more than 70 per cent of cases. Now, researchers in Toronto are bated say that they may be able to improve the odds for children with leukemia—with a new drug that has the potential to cure the critically ill youngsters who do not respond to chemotherapy.

The breakthrough, reported last week in the British journal *Nature* by researchers at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, takes

the decades-old fight against cancer in a new direction. "This is a completely novel approach that makes sense," says Dr. Max Coppes, director of oncology at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, after reviewing the report. "On a scale of one to 10, I would rate it as an impact or note on potential impact." Coppes compares traditional chemotherapy to an atomic bomb—"It just throws it in and kills the cancer cells and everything that's around them," he says. "Then you hope that after the blast, there are enough healthy cells so that the kid can continue living." But the new drug, called AG-490, after the initials of Asha Datta, a scientist on the Israeli research team, appears to work selectively like a smart bomb, it targets and kills cancer cells without affecting healthy tissue. "The concept is exciting," says hematologist Dr. Chaim Barabian, head of the research team at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "Because it can—and should—be applied to many other different kinds of cancer."

The discovery came after Barabian turned his attention to the study of the basic mechanism of cells. Last year he presented a group of about 70 enzymes called kinases, which transmit signals for the growth of a cell. "We identified the enzymes in normal cells and in leukemia cells," he explains. "We found that one of them is abundant in leukemia cells." The Toronto researchers—as yet unaware of the enzyme's importance—

named it JAK2, for "just another kinase." At the same time, the collaborating Israeli team, led by biochemist Alexander Levitsky, began synthesizing compounds in an attempt to find a chemical that could block the enzyme and stop the proliferation of cancer cells. The researchers were lucky. Although there were thousands of possibilities, they found the right fit after a mere 60 attempts. "It was a perfect match," says Barabian. "Our drug binds directly to the enzyme related to cell division, arrests the growth process—and the cancer cell dies."

The Toronto researchers achieved impressive results when they tested the drug on human leukemia cells implanted in mice. "At therapeutic levels, there is 100-percent elimination of leukemia," says Barabian, adding that "the affected mice seem to be very happy." Barabian—whose research is funded by the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the Medical Research Council of Canada and STAGEN Inc., a California-based pharmaceutical company—was so confident that the drug will have few if any side-effects. "Normal tissue and normal bone marrow appear not to be affected at all," he says.

The drug could potentially cure the approximately 220 children afflicted by childhood leukemia each year, but Barabian says that his team's plan of attack—to pinpoint and block the parts of cells responsible for the proliferation of leukemia—holds promise for the treatment of other forms of the disease. Among the likely targets of the approach are breast cancer and prostate cancer, which have levels of enzymes similar to those in childhood leukemia.

Barabian cautions that it could take at least three to seven years before the drug is ready for clinical use. "We do not have a drug suitable for human use, therefore making it very difficult for Coppes also temper his enthusiasm. "I don't see any treatment changes around the corner," he warns. "There are some issues that still need to be resolved." The investigation will need to prove that blocking the action of one enzyme will result in longtime survival for the young. In Coppes' lab, cure is determined by the fact that a child is alive after five years, he argues. Barabian agrees that there is much work to be done on AG-490—but says that the need for its development is pressing. At the Hospital for Sick Children, "we see the most cases of leukemia," he adds. "There is a lot of suffering—it would be fantastic to be able to help them."

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First you see Plan B, and then you don't

BY GEORGE BAIN

Whether exonerated by politicians, or having allowed ourselves to be suckered, or even having made things up, we—whom I to say, the media—recently delivered a lot of brain information on national unity and the government's dealings.

Each of those three suppositions has its grounds. It could be that the Charbonneau government wanted to get out, as a warning, the idea that Quebec might be partitioned if it quit Canada, but to get it out with the thought in mind that this threat could be disavowed later if it came to seem preposterous to do so.

Or it could be that the liberal brain discipline applied by the media to all unrelated giveaway information, especially from government, was suspended, even more completely than it has been throughout the Chrétien regime.

Or it could be that the parliamentary reporting process, as Jean Chrétien himself hinted, simply drowned up all that stuff about the government's workings to establish a Plan A and a Plan B for future dealings with Quebec.

Which, in any case, are some things to consider. On Feb. 3, the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* carried a Canadian Press story by Linda Drouin on page 1, under the heading: "Pro denies two-pronged Quebec plan." It said that Chrétien "told a brief press conference at the end of a two-day cabinet meeting that the talk was not about getting tough with Quebec separatists but decentralizing power to satisfy provincial demands."

Given that the news for two weeks had been full of reporting and commentary about Plans A and B, one tough one to deny. News Scotians who had been tentatively following the news could be expected to be slightly discomfited.

They could have been even more so on turning to page 2, where the Drouin story

Was the Ottawa press corps suckered into speculating about a get-tough-with-Quebec strategy that does not even exist?

continued. There, they would have found another Canadian Press story, this one by Brian Bob Cox, under the heading: "No more one-way PM as unity struggle." The first paragraph said: "Jean Chrétien's days of walking softly and carrying no stick are over." The story also identified Stéphane Duss, the Prime Minister's lead now minister of intergovernmental affairs, as the one who had "first asserted that if Canada can be divided in two Quebecs, pushing Chrétien to say the same thing."

Cabinet solidarity is a recognized trait of parliamentary government. But a new one, new not just to cabinet, but to Parliament and politics at all, leading to the elected people has, apparently, succeeded in "pushing" the Prime Minister to do anything? Strange, strange.

What may explain the juxtaposition of contradictory stories is that CP likely delivered them at different times and the paper, in effect, backed the one story when it came in. Then the editors, reflecting to avoid it in light of Drouin's piece, which presumably came later. If so, a black mark to the *Chronicle-Herald*.

But let's hope that both stories reasonably

represented what the government—including the Prime Minister himself—was offering in information of its dealings within a remarkably short span of time, which reflects intensely more important cabinet dealings, or, in the cabinet.

Not only that, but the explanations that went with the disclosure of the two-pronged idea were not true. Linda Drouin said the Prime Minister saying it was said by who generated the debate on Quebec's being susceptible to partition if it quit Confederation. That, he ascribed to Lucien Bouchard and unidentified others in Quebec for remarks about Canada not being one country. Chrétien had said the same earlier, in an interview with Don Newman on CBC Newsweek.

Again, strange, strange. Bouchard had not spoken first, but only in response to Duss and Chrétien.

The *Toronto Star*, also on Feb. 3, carried a story by Sandro Contino of its Montreal bureau that began: "(Until this week, talk of curving up an independent Quebec was seen in the province as the exclusive domain of anglophone writers. But now, the most powerful francophones in Canada, Prime Minister Chrétien and the newly appointed intergovernmental affairs minister are embracing it)." —Chrétien is unnamed by the story expressed in parts of Quebec.

In a *Globe and Mail* story headed "Chrétien steps back from unity issue," Susan Delacour quoted that Prime Minister as saying: "There is no Plan A or Plan B," to which she added as her own that he was speaking "less than 24 hours after his new intergovernmental affairs minister about Plan A as reconciliation terms and Plan B as the terms of secession."

These are samples from coverage by just three newspapers at just one incident in an ongoing debate. But the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* is just one client of CP which provides much of the national news and most of the international news to many newspapers (and radio and television newscasts) across the country. The *Star* has Canada's largest circulation. The *Globe and Mail* is sold coast-to-coast and has great authority.

The media are always quick to speak of "the public's right to know" when information is withheld. But is wrong information better than no information? And if that wrong information has been played prominently, is there not a responsibility to explain how it got reported, rather than to settle back as if nothing had happened? Canadians read a lot of current stuff in their newspapers about how the government proposed to treat one of the most crucial issues of the time, and a lot of it proved to be bunk.

Because the government used the media to lie, a questionable tactic. Because the media, in effect, backed the one story when it came in. Or perhaps because the media loved the idea of a two-pronged plan meeting, and built a few speculative comments into a full-blown plan?

Or all three? Go figure.

After all, she is constantly challenged. Conventional thinking says keep her away from the pool—it's just not safe.

But is it safe for Jennifer to go in the water?

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PEOPLE

HOT GEAR FOR COLD WEATHER

Montreal designer Milly Rodley has clearly established herself as one of Canada's leading creators of outerwear for women. At last week's ready-to-wear shows in Toronto for Canadian and U.S. store buyers, her autumn coat collection featured streamlined silhouettes and unexpected shades such as melon and indigo. "My taste runs through it all," says Rodley. With only one product category to show off, Rodley faces a tougher challenge than many designers in coming up with fresh looks. But "the queen of coats," as the fashion media call her, always delivers. Rodley, 43, got into that line of work 11 years ago largely by accident. With a degree in fine arts, fashion and textiles from Lancaster Polytechnic in England, she was working as an illustrator or designer when a friend asked her to create a coat. That is when she discovered a void in the market. "There wasn't anyone manufacturing coats with a focus on fashion design," says Rodley. These days, her wide-ranging line is sold in major department stores and boutiques throughout North America.

Rodley (left) with model at Fall '95 show; 'low darts' below

THE GIRLS OF SUMMER

Growing up, Ottawa filmmaker Lois Siegel dreamed of becoming a major-league pitcher—until she was 30 and a boy told her: "It's too bad you're a girl and you can't be a baseball player, because you'd be a good one." But Siegel, 40, has scored as the narrator, writer and director of *Baseball Girls*, a feature-length National Film Board documentary that starts a cross-Canada tour this week. *Baseball Girls* chronicles the luxury—and struggles—of women in the



Siegel in love with diamonds

Poline Clère, Que. "It's not just about baseball," notes Siegel. "You can substitute filmmaker, lawyer or doctor for baseball—it doesn't matter. It's about challenging yourself." *Baseball Girls* explores the ease that women deserve a crack at the bat.

STORM WARNINGS

Miami writer Carl Hiseaux has a message for all the snowbirds who flock to his home state each winter: have a nice visit, but don't even think about moving to Florida. It is not that he times anyone for wanting to escape the northern cold. Indeed, he worries his scare for politicians, his business and land developers who, in their rush to cater to newcomers, have destroyed much of the state's cultural and natural heritage. "It all boils down to pure slobbering greed," he adds. It is a theme that Hiseaux often explores in his columns for *The Miami Herald*, and in his novels. In his witty and sardonic novel, *Sloppy Weather*, for instance, a famous hurricane sweeps across southern Florida, diverting the plans of its cast of corrupt and/or comic characters. For Hiseaux—whose satirical 1993 novel, *Ship These*, is currently being filmed with *Demi Moore* in the lead role—the storm's devastation is itself "swings. 'I am,' he says, "always looking for rain."



Hiseaux: 'looking for rain' for authors

AND THE BEAT GOES ON



Mason, Rosard, Lepore, Langille: 'like kids in a toy store'

The Montreal-based percussion quartet Hiattpercussion has never limited itself to one type of music. In the course of producing five CDs and mounting two world tours, the group has played everything from classical compositions and jazz to pop and international music. And while that may make it difficult for others to pigeonhole what they do, the group says the variety helps to keep them fresh. "There is an energy created from continuously exploring new musical worlds," says **Able Mason**, a Hiattpercussion member along with **Charlène Rosard**, **Robert Lepore** and **Luc Langille**. Among them, he says, they play "a couple of hundred" different percussion instruments culled from their travels. The latest addition, a balafon, a precursor of the xylophone from Guinea-Bissau in Africa. As the eclectic quartet celebrates its 20th anniversary with upcoming appearances with jazzman **Oliver Jones** in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, "we still feel like kids in a toy store," says Mason.

Edited by BARBARA WICKHAM



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Culture of speed

As he steps into a Toronto hotel room, John Updike looks oddly different from the photographs advertising his early books. The famous Dutchman's face with its thin, bowing nose and his normally untidy eyes seem right. But the flash of his hair and a groomed eyebrows are what's not expected, and there are lines the camera has not caught. And then the obvious hair bronze: the man who once would argue in America's finest literary magazine that the *Witches of Eastwick*, *Beetle at Red* is pitifully 13 years out of date. For almost 40 years, Updike has outstepped the growing and aging pains of America's middle class with such effortless virtuosity and boyish effervescence that it sometimes seems he has ducked from the fountain of youth. But the writer is not his art, and even this master storyteller, now 65, must submit to the dictates of his own biology.

In Canada to promote his latest novel, *In the Beauty of the Lilies* (Knopf, \$61, pages, \$30), Updike comes into an arched room with the spiky decorative chandelier and his back—effects on his work. He talks with a mellowed ease, gelling up thoughtfully, well-formed sentences with the serendipity of a bee stepping between flowers. His new book, which mixes satire with lust, follows four generations of the Wilsons through the week, unearthing social changes of 20th-century America. It opens in 1918, just at the moment when Clarence Wilcox, a friendly loan minister in New Jersey, loses his faith and it coincides with Clarence's great-grandson, Clark, who joins a Columbia course by a right-wing religious sect called Jesus Inc. Clearly based on the 1983 graphic by Waco, Texas, the novel's apocalyptic theme takes place until the rise of fire and guns. "My novel is some kind of investigation of faith," says Updike himself, a practicing Episcopalian. "And if I understand the moral, some faith is necessary to be effective, to be learned in life, to not be punished. But absolute faith is

A master novelist explores how modern writers have created a triflingly generational



Updike: a boyish effervescence through 40 years of writing

Jesus seems to have—he's going to transport his followers right up to heaven with a gun—clearly mad. Do this is a crazy behavior. Updike behavior.

"The novel enters other familiar Updike themes, including the century's undermining of the old, middle-class sense of tradition and moral stability. But the book strikes a new note when it suggests that one of the causes of these changes is the movies, which form an exciting, to look in the lives of the Wilsons. As Clarence's big loss in the 1930s, he becomes charmed with the silent films. And his granddaughter, Esther, more lately turns toward him a Hollywood man, virtually abandoning her son, Clark. Finally, Clark's involvement in the book's harmful conclusion has an actual, concrete quality, as if all the whole thing had been staged by Hollywood's various studios. San Francisco is a joke. In other words, the Wilsons have

been ensnared by the champagne animosity of the movies they adore. Updike says he wanted to show a kind of half-century final scene to "think much of the old world we used to feel, in words and in our lives."

The surprising of the Wilsons' sense of reality is raised by more than just the movies. Life imitates Art, and the new culture of the cinema, where cars travel has destroyed the pedestrian scene of place. Updike thinks that TV and video are also part of that change—a kind of private cinema that acts like an unconscious, especially in a scene such as "Two women," Updike writes, "These quiet conversations, perfect achievement can come out of such a hopped-up sensation."

Updike himself enjoyed a severe, slow-paced upbringing in Shillington, Penn., where his father was a disaffected high-school teacher. "I came from a nuclear family that stayed together," Updike recalls. "There was a lot of complacency. My father had an appetite for moving on. But it wasn't indulgent to the point where he washed out and left me fatherless." Adds the writer, whose father has so often reflected the life of a neo-conservative America: "I think there was a streak of just doing your duty that got off-center and can't be replaced. You can't just say, 'Come back' because it's gone. The house is out of the barn."

Updike currently lives in Beverly Mass., about 50 km north of Boston, in a ranch house he shares with his second wife, Martin, whom he married in 1977. He has four grown children from his first marriage. He writes for about three hours each day, between 10 am and 1 pm, usually without the help of his two secretaries. "You can reach your imagination a little easier with pencil and paper," he says. In his 1980 memoir, *Self-Consciousness*, Updike wrote that he had had only a distant acquaintance with teller. But when pressed on the issue, he admits, "I think the clarity and more depression than I have felt." He speculates that only thing that separates him from some of his unlikable characters is the ability to write "I'm a trainee, and this consolation is almost meaningless. I feel, some men and women don't have it." "Take away the setting, Updike says, and 'I think I would really' And he lets slip a private, unadmitted laugh before adding: "Maybe I do suffer."

JOHN DODD

'I was Guinevere'

A Vancouver writer claims 50 past lives

Septic, if not downright opinion, is the natural state of the journalist. So what is a reporter to do when faced with the likes of Laurel Phelan, a self-proclaimed Vancouver woman who claims that one of her many past lives was the Christian of Arthurian legend? That's a form of self-hypnosis known as past-life regression through the use of hypnosis and regression. Phelan's emotional highs and lows?

The very idea of reincarnation is the first enough to grow, without the brain-adding notion that memories of lives lived hundreds—sometimes thousands—of years ago can be recalled vividly in the here and now that Phelan herself is disarmingly lovely about her esoteric beliefs and seriously certain that her purpose in this life is to be a spirit of teacher. "It doesn't matter if people believe me," she tells the *post* reporter. "All I ask of them is to have an open mind."

Others clearly have managed to be open-minded in the decade that Phelan, 35, has been conducting past-life regressions on herself and others, more than 3,000 have undergone her sessions—at \$125 for a two-hour session. (Phelan says that now she only teaches.) Then there are others who, whether or not they are believers, find the ones who are intriguing. When the *post* reporter got word of Phelan's past-life sessions, she was a newspaper, broadcaster—and the public—could not get enough of her. This month, Pocket Books, a division of New York City-based Simon & Schuster Inc., is publishing Phelan's *Guinevere* (Simon & Schuster, \$14.95). Phelan is scheduled to begin filming Phelan's screenplay, which she wrote before the book, with Sidney Bodinar-Carter and Nicole Smith, reported as Guinevere's pseudonyms.

Phelan says she is inspired by the reaction to her accounts of Guinevere's life and times by one group that might have been expected to dismiss them out of hand—mainstream historians. She credits some British historians, most notably leading Arthurian expert Geoffrey Ashe, with giving her "her support." Ashe has not commented publicly on the reincarnation angle, but Phelan says that he wrote her to say that she has rendered a historically accurate account of 15th-century Britain just before 500 AD.

He agrees with her, she says, that Arthur was likely descended from the Roman who had left Britain earlier in the century, and was a Celtic, not a king.

In writing her account of Guinevere, Phelan says, she relied solely on past-life regression. She insists in this book that she has read no other material. "I feel it is not the truth, but after passion information that has become distorted and



Phelan has 'reincarnated' as Guinevere in the film of the century

greatly embellished over the centuries." And the story does differ in many respects from the Arthurian legend as it is now told. There is no Round Table or sword for the Holy Grail. Instead, Arthur and his court are simply a band of knights protecting their land in what is now southwestern England against marauding Picts, Angles, Saxons and Scots. Arthur's sword, rather than being any special significance by being drawn from a stone or presented to him by the Lady of the Lake, is merely mentioned. And Merlin is no powerful magician but a brave warrior. As in this version, there is much from Guinevere's final and lesser-known lives.

Phelan also presents the Arthur Guinevere-Lancelot love triangle as a new light, as an

act of a clash of cultures than a tale of betrayal. Guinevere, here in a past life, and although her people were often with the Roman Britons, they did not share their Christian beliefs—especially the notion that women must always obey their husbands. Instead, they held the ancient beliefs in gods and goddesses of the earth and spirit, and a love for pleasure. So when Guinevere and Lancelot, she is simply doing what countless pagan women before her had done—taking a lover while her husband was away at war.

It was, according to Phelan, Guinevere's pain and frustration with her treatment by the British that set the author on her quest in this book. So when Guinevere had shared according and spiritual healing had ended up working as a secretary for a Vancouver-based oil company, she was introduced to past-life regression 15 years ago after suffering from insomnia all her life. She says that when all other forms of treatment failed, her treatment with Phelan seemed a hypothesis. In that session, Phelan claims to have discovered that she had once lived as an Irish noblewoman who felt responsible for her father's death by fire in the 1500s. The therapist then suggested that since Phelan had registered Joseph Pilsbury, had had two years earlier of cancer, she no longer had to stay awake at night to protect him. "I went home and slept for eight solid hours for the first time in months," Phelan recalls.

Since then, Phelan says that she has regressed through about 50 of her past lives, stretching back to the time of the cavemen. While most of those lives were quite ordinary, Phelan says she drew particular delight in recalling her life as a 16th-century woman in Elizabethan England. Still, a son Guinevere, who first appeared to Phelan in recent dreams, who commanded her attention. After the dreams became increasingly disturbing, Phelan finally decided to turn all she could about the strange-wild woman in the past. Over the course of two days, Phelan regressed into Guinevere's life from birth to death. Her tape recordings of these sessions formed the basis of the screen play and book. She has since travelled to England to visit many of the significant sites in her regressions. And in doing so, she says, she has found a greater sense of peace. "I learned that Arthur never blamed Guinevere" for her affair with Lancelot, adds Phelan, who shortly after that met and married her husband, electronic Clark Wilcox, 26. As for the question of whether Phelan is indeed the reincarnation of Guinevere, that, however, he says, is everyone's satisfaction. At least not in this life.

BARBARA WICKENS

Alan Fotheringham

A 'bad girl' who was saved by a good book

In the fall of 1985, Sharon Hamilton, now in London, was headed back to her unheated basement flat in Chelsea after watching *Alan Bates* star in John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* at the Haymarket Theatre.

She was so impressed she wrote out several comments as a letter she put in her purse, thinking of dropping it off at the Haymarket the next time she was near. Almost home, she is crossing the King's Road in a drizzling rain and finds herself flying through the air.

Hit by a cat, an arm and a leg broken, she is asked by the distraught mountaineer whether there is anything the driver can do until the ambulance arrives. She says, pulling the letter from her purse, "Take this to Alan Bates at the Haymarket."

Several days later, she receives a call. "Hello, this is Alan Bates. I just received your letter from the stage door manager. It has written on the envelope that you've been in some kind of accident. How are you? How there's a gentleman and a scholar. They have lunch."

A few days ago, Sharon Hamilton was in Toronto, on a publicity tour for her book detailing her amazing life: *Alan Bates*, as it turns out, is starring in Harold Pinter's sombre and powerful *The Mirror* at the Mirvish family's Royal Alexandra Theatre. She phones him. He covers her backstage.

It is just one more stage in the remarkable life of a remarkable woman who is so important to everyone who has ever been down and out. (And a lesson to those born at the top of the heap.)

The book is called *My Name's Not Steve: A Life Transformed* by Lattacy. Sharon Hamilton, who has gone through about three name changes, by age of three had been through 18 foster homes in Winnipeg. Today, she is Dr. Sharon Hamilton, a professor of English at Indiana University and associate dean for academic affairs.

It's a chilling story, ending in triumph. The tiny 151 pages tell you more about the trauma spent than most of us can imagine. The stories of sexual and physical abuse in the foster "homes" are better imagined than described.

She was born on Canada's border—somewhere fitting in tri-angulo—July 1, 1944, as Karen Agnes Fitzmaurice. Her mother, a screen, was probably a prostitute in the tough North End of Winnipeg. The "Steve" comes from one of many foster parents.

Only in 1986 through the Freedom of Information Act does she track through the records of the Children's Aid Society that she has some 15 siblings, produced by her birth mother's courtship of four men, all sisters and brothers still alive and growing up within a 25-km radius of one another.

She is "born bad"—learned about that from the time she could understand it. Told she had been found under a cabbage leaf, she thought that was probable since "all the other kids I met had baby pictures and granolas and groupies, where I truly seemed to have sprung up in some unknown place at some unknown time."

The childhood is grim, almost unbearable for the reader. She is nicknamed "Ginger" Gertie—out of the Dick Tracy comic strip. At 16, she is a regular shoplifter at Eaton's in Winnipeg. One of her high-school teachers said, "You had a sadness about you that settled too old in one so young." At 19, she is a dancer in the Don Young "night club" that turns out to be a front for a prostitution ring.

But Winnipeg, which is her theme, saves her. The Hamilton family—hence her first name—which adopts her has a mother who tends to her every night. The alcoholism disappears in the adopted child is vanished.

She attends as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Manitoba. Unloved throughout her life, she goes to bed with her first boyfriend, she shops at a drugstore for Contac C for a cold just starting. "Unfortunately, reborn into a consistently productive of AFI's *Wild That Bad's* Wild, in which I play Diana, have consumed my spending reserves with extra bus fare and snack money and coasted, between full-time teaching a Grade 6 class 20 miles north of St. Vital and my role in the play, opening the following week. I know I can't get sick. I choose the Contac C."

Rego. She is pregnant of course. And marries a young, Minnesota fellow teacher who worries first what his mother will think and never tells her through 11 years of a latent marriage that he loves her.

Lattacy? Her one son at age 7 wrote a 72-page story of a lost in time process. By age 13 had his first poem published. He has just turned 20 and had his first play, *The Almost Girl Show*, produced onstage in Winnipeg. His mother? Sharon Hamilton, by this time president of the Manitoba Association of Teachers of English. Found herself on the executive board of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English meeting in Vancouver in 1980.

She was assigned to show around the two keynote speakers from Britain. They were so impressed with the "bad girl" who had been saved by Lattacy they urged her to pursue a PhD in the London of her dreams. As she writes, she finds herself studying in the British Museum where Marx and Joyce and Pound and Eliot studied.

She is now Dr. Hamilton, battered child. Alan Bates had good taste.



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* Overlaid areas may be serviced by a delivery agent. International service is not available for British Columbia and Manitoba.